

T H E  
Doctrīne of Particular Unconditionate  
**E L E C T I O N**  
(Before Time.)

Asserted and Prov'd by God's Word,  
against the *Quakers*, *Papists*, and *Ar-*  
*minians*.

In Answer to a Challenge given the  
Author, (by the *Quakers*) to make  
good (by the Scriptures of Truth) the  
abovesaid Doctrīne.

Wherein is evidently discovered,

- I. That the abovesaid Doctrīne, rightly under-  
stood and believ'd, (with Application to ones  
self) is the great Enemy of Sin, both in the  
Heart and Life of a true Believer; and that  
which keeps the Believer from Despair in the  
deepest Desertion and Temptation.
- II. That the Doctrīne of Free-will and General  
Redemption, &c. is an Inlet to, and an Encou-  
rager of Sin; and which leads (in the end) to  
horrid Despair, under powerful Awakenings in  
the natural Conscience of an Unregenerate Man.

---

*For there shall arise false Christs and false Prophets,  
and shall shew great Signs and Wonders; insomuch,  
that (if it were possible) they should deceive the ve-  
ry Elect, Mat. 24. 24.*

*Wherefore the rather, Brethren, give all diligence, to  
make your Calling and Election sure, &c. 2 Pet.  
1. 10.*

---

By *Ja. Barry*, an unworthy Minister of the Gospel.

---

L O N D O N, Printed for the Author, 1700.

# THE

(Historical)

and the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the

of the



To the Reader.

---

TO THE  
Impartial  
READER.

Courteous Reader,

**I** Am to inform thee, that in  
the time of the Popish Go-  
vernment, when Popery  
and Quakerism smil'd so (ami-  
cably) on each other, (as the  
two Religions (if I might so call  
them) which are nearest of Kin  
of all the Religions (visibly) pro-  
fess'd in these Kingdoms) the  
People called Quakers sent me a

A 2

Thras.

## To the Reader.

*Thrasonical Challenge in Writing, (which was afterwards published in Print) to prove (from the Scriptures of Truth) the Four Doctrines here following. (1.)*

*The Doctrine of the Resurrection of this fleshly Body, which Dies and turns to Dust.*

*(2.) The Doctrine of Justification, by the alone Righteousness of Jesus Christ, freely imputed.*

*(3.) The Doctrine of Imperfection (in Sanctification) in the most Mortified Believer, while in this World.*

*(4.) The Doctrine of Particular Unconditionate Election before Time.*

*All which the Quakers do stiffly (and peremptorily) deny, as by their Printed Book (against me) doth evident-*

*ly*

## To the Reader

by appear. Their Challenge I was resolv'd to answer in Print, to let the World see what Heretick and Iheretick Principles that deluded (and seduced) People do hold and teach for true Religion. Besides my Resolution (herein,) I oblig'd my self by promise, to my Congregation, that I would (in the Strength of Christ) prick the Bladder of their Blasphemous Pride, by proving (and making good) by the Scriptures of Truth, the abovesaid Doctrines. For my Encouragement (wherein,) my Congregation did (unanimsly) stand by me, resolving I should be at no other Charge (hereabout) but the Studying part. Paper was Bought, the Printer agreed with; and just as the

## To the Reader.

Press was ready to begin, the Storm came so suddenly on the Protestants in Dublin, that we were soon scattered asunder. The Providence of God calling on us, to secure our Lives, instead of Printing Books. The reason why I have been so long silent in this Cause, is, the want of that help I had from my Flock in Dublin. If any generous noble Spirited Christians (who love Christ's Cause better than they do the Mammon of this World) will step in to my Encouragement, in supplying the room of my absent Friends, they shall (in a very short time) see the Four Doctrines above-mention'd clear'd up and made good from God's Word, (Mangre all the Jesuit

at

## To the Reader.

cal Craft and Subtilty, whereof that People seem to be Masters) The reason why I have singled out the last of the four Doctrines, rather than any of the other three, to discover and confute the Quakers pernicious Heterodoxy (in the foundation Principles of true Christianity) is twofold.

First, because that in denying and opposing the Doctrine of particular, unconditionate Election (before time) they do manifestly Rob God of his Sovereignty and Praise.

Secondly, because of the Natural tendency, which the denial of this Doctrine of a particular, unconditionate Election (before time) and the holding and propagating

## To the Reader.

pagating its contrary, (viz.)  
The Doctrine of Free Will to  
good (in every Man) of Gene-  
ral Redemption, and a Tempo-  
rary, Conditional Election, with  
falling from Grace; bath to en-  
courage Men in Living a licen-  
tious, loose Life; and to necessi-  
tate Mens final despair of Salva-  
tion, when the Naural Consci-  
ence (in Unregenerate Men)  
comes to be under powerful A-  
wakenings, for Sin committed a-  
gainst the Law of God.

That I do the Quakers no  
wrong, in charging them with  
Robbing God and encouraging  
Men to Live in Sin; as also  
their laying a Foundation for  
Mens despair of ever being sa-  
ved in their way of Conditional  
and



## To the Reader.

*and Temporary Election, will evidently appear to him who reads and compares with Gods revealed Will, what is discovered in this small Tract: And in case any noble Spirited Christians will but encourage the Work (as already hinted) I do not so much as doubt, but that the Spirit of God will enable me to demonstrate (from Gods own Word) that the Quakers in denying the Resurrection of the Body, and the Justification of a Sinner, by the alone Righteousness of the Son of God, (freely imputed) without any regard had to any Qualifications inhering in the Person of the Sinner Justified, do deny all sound and saving Religion; And as touching their*  
*Sinless*

## To the Reader.

Sinless Perfection, (attainable in this Life) whereof they make such Brags; it shall be made plain, that (herein) they both belye the Spirit of God, and contradict the experience of all saved Believers, both in Heaven and Earth.

---

CHAPTER

## C H A P. I.

*Of Election before Time.*

**G** O D did before all Time, by his unchangeable Counsel, most freely, unchangeably, and from all Eternity, elect and choose unto himself (out of Lapsed *Adam's* fallen Posterity) a certain number of Persons, (which can neither be lessened nor encreased) to partake of his special saving Grace to Salvation, by Jesus Christ his Son, to the Praise of the Glory of his own Grace.

What I have now asserted (for truth,) if God enables me to demonstrate and make good by Scripture, as (I doubt not) he will, then will it unavoidably follow, (all the Wit and Malice of Men and Devils cannot overthrow it,) that God hath passed by, and Reprobated others.

In the Proposition now laid down, there are three things to be considered, in order to a clearing up, and making good the Point in Dispute. *First, The*

Act of God, and the Objects thereof, which are both held forth and intended in the Scriptures following, *Ephes. 1. 4. According as he hath chosen us in him. Jo. 15. 19. I have chosen you, &c. 2 Thes. 2. 13. God hath chosen you, &c.*

In the Scriptures now quoted, we have God Electing or Choosing, and then the Objects of his Election or Choice, (*viz.*) Particular Persons, on whom that Election of God fixeth, (*viz.*) Some particular Persons.

That God's Act of Election hath fixt on some particular Persons, not on all in general, as the Enemies of Election would fain have it, the following Arguments will evince.

*Arg. 1.* If God hath made a Promise of Life and Salvation to some particular Persons only, then hath he elected and chosen to himself a certain number of Persons, to whom alone (excluding all others) that Promise of Grace and Salvation shall be made good.

But God hath made a Promise of Life and Salvation to some particular Persons only, (excluding all others,) therefore God hath elected and chosen to himself a certain number of Persons, to whom (ex-  
cluding

cluding all others) the Promise of Life and Salvation shall be made good.

That God hath made a Promise of Life and Salvation to some particular Persons only, (excluding all others) is evident and plain to such as acknowledge the Scriptures of the *Old and New Testament* to be of Divine Authority. *Gen. 17. 7. And I will establish my Covenant between me and thee, and thy Seed after thee, in their Generations, for an everlasting Covenant, to be a God to thee, and to thy Seed after thee.*

Here the Judicious and Unprejudic'd Reader may plainly see, that *Abraham* and his Seed were particular Persons, distinct from all other Nations and People, which were round about him : And these it pleased God of his meer Sovereign Grace, to single out for his own peculiar Use, that they may be a Holy People, to bear his Name, and to give him a pure and spiritual Worship and Service, which should be according to his own Holy Institution and Divine Appointment : And that they may be made Partakers of the promised Inheritance, which was the sure Possession of the Kingdom of Heaven, of which the promised Land of *Canaan*, was but a Type and Shadow.

The People of the Jews was but a small People when God fixt his Love on them, and called them. Deut. 7. 6, 7, 8. For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God, the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you because ye were more in number than any people, for ye were the fewest of all people, but because the Lord loved you: And because he would keep the Oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and Redeemed you out of the hand of Bondmen.

The same Promise which was made to Abraham and his Seed under the Old Testament Dispensation, is confirmed by the New.

And evident it is, that as God chose and called Abraham under that dark Dispensation, with whom he entred into a Covenant of Grace; the Benefit of which was to be of equal extent to himself and his Children, even so many of them as were the Children of the Promise. So under the Gospel Dispensation God (who is a free Agent, acting all he doth in a way of Sovereignty) saw fit to make known, by the Gospel, that among the  
Gentiles



*Gentiles* also he had a select and chosen People, on whom he had decreed to conferr the Riches of his free Grace, through the plenteous Redemption that is in his Son Jesus Christ; and that pursuant to his own immutable Decree and Purpose, electing and choosing them before Time began. *Acts 2. 39.* for the Promise is to you and to your Children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Here is that Promise formerly mentioned, which looks at *Abraham* and his Children, and also discovers the gracious Design of God, to make a certain number of the *Gentiles* actual Partakers of the self same Grace and Blessing.

The manner of the Apostle's expressing himself, is full of Clearness and Perspicuity, proving, that the promise of that Grace and Salvation is not designed for all and singular the *Gentile* Sinners that then were, or in after times should be in the Word, but he limits and restrains the Promise to a certain peculiar number, least Sinners should mistake the Apostle, and conclude, that because he had laid down an universal Term, saying, And to all that are afar off, he (by way of Explanation) shews what the Spirit means by that universal Term, adding

even as many as the Lord our God shall call, in which he plainly shews, and invincibly proves, that none of the *Gentile* Sinners shall ever partake of God's special Grace, but such as are (in time) effectually called out of a State of Nature to a State of Justification and Sanctification; the which is never granted to any, but in the Right of a Covenant-promise, which Covenant-promise respects that gracious Act of God, electing and choosing in Christ his Son, as many of *Adam's* Posterity, both of *Jews* and *Gentiles*, as his own Sovereignty pleased, according to that of the Apostle: *Rom. 8. 30. Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them he also called, and whom he called, them he also justified, and whom he justified, them he also glorified.* And our Saviour himself, in *Jo. 10. 16.* designs the *Gentiles*, whom God had in his electing Love, given in charge to him, in those Expressions: *And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold, them also I must bring; and they shall hear my voice, &c.*

*Arg. 2.* If among the many thousands of People, who hear the Gospel Preached, but some (and that very few comparatively) are savingly Converted, receive

ceive Mercy, are Justified and Sanctified, and are made to Persevere in a course of Faith and Holy Life; then God hath elected and chosen only a certain peculiar number of Men to Life and Salvation.

But among the many thousands of People, who hear the Gospel Preached, but some only are savingly Converted, receive Mercy, are Justified, are Sanctified, and do finally Persevere in a course of Faith and Holy Life.

Therefore God hath elected and chosen only a certain peculiar number of Men to Life and Salvation.

There is nothing more evident than that the greatest number, even of those People, who are outwardly called by the Gospel, do slight and contemn the Gospel, and the Grace offered therein: Witness that of our Saviour, *Mat. 20. 16. For many are called, but few are chosen. Luke 14. 16, 17, 18, 19.* That Parable of the King, who made a great Supper, to which the King (by his Servants) invited the Guests, notwithstanding which many of them made blind Excuses, and shifted it off. By which Practise in the Guests we are to understand, that great slight and contempt which worldly minded Sinners put on the Lord Jesus and his great Salvation, (wrought for the

Elect) which God offers in the Gospel, the which they undervalue, preferring the Accommodations of this perishing World, before that great and precious Salvation.

To this also pertinent is that of *Paul*, *Rom. 10. 16.* *But they have not all obeyed the Gospel, for Esaias saith, Lord who hath believed our report?* *Rom. 9. 27.* *Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant only shall be saved.*

Now then, if among those many, who are Externally called, and the very many, who make a Profession, there are but very few who savingly Believe, Repent, and finally Persevere in a course of Faith and Holy Life; then it is beyond all Controversy, that those few who so Believe, Repent, &c. are particular Persons, whom free Grace elected to that state of Believing and Persevering; and the rest, who were (by far) the greater number, were left to inward Blindness and hardness of Heart, according to *Rom. 11. 7.* *What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for, but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded: According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of*  
*slum-*

*slumber; eyes, that they should not see; and ears, that they should not hear, unto this day.*

*Arg. 3.* If God hath chosen Persons by Name, to be Partakers of Life and Salvation by Christ his Son, then hath he chosen particular Persons.

But God hath chosen Persons by Name, to be Partakers of Life and Salvation by Christ his Son.

Therefore God hath chosen particular Persons, &c.

The major Proposition is not questioned; the Minor or Assumption is secured by the expresse Testimony of the Spirit. Rev. 13. 8. *And all that dwell upon the earth, shall worship the beast, whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of life.* Luke 10. 20. *Notwithstanding, in this rejoyce not, that the spirits are subject unto you, but rather rejoyce because your names are written in Heaven.*

Philip. 4. 3. *And I intreat thee also true yoke-fellow, help those women which laboured with me in the Gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow-labourers, whose names are in the book of Life.*

*Argu. 4.* If Jeremiab and Jacob, &c. were particular Persons Chosen and

B. 5

Loved

Lov'd of God before they were Born, then God did Elect and Choose particular Persons to Life and Salvation; but *Jeremiah* and *Jacob*, &c. were particular Persons, Chosen and Lov'd of God before they were Born.

Therefore God did Elect and Choose particular Persons to Life and Salvation.

That *Jeremiah* and *Jacob*, &c. were particular Persons, no Man of Sense will deny; that they were Beloved of God before the natural Birth, the word of God is full and express. *Jer.* 1. 5. *Jer.* 31. 3. *Rom.* 9. 11.

*Argu. 5.* If God knows his Elect from all others, before he calls them in Conversion, then hath God Elected particular Persons to Life and Salvation.

But God knows his Elect from all others, before he calls them in Conversion.

Therefore God hath Elected and Chosen particular Persons to Life and Salvation.

That Gods Præcognition (or foreknowledge joyned with his purpose of Grace to Save his Elect) goes before his actually calling them in effectual Conversion, is beyond Dispute. *Rom.* 8. 29, 30. *2 Tim.* 2. 19. *Ja.* 13. 18.

*Argu. 6.*



*Argu. 6.* If they who believe in Time, were, before their Believing, ordained to Eternal Life, then did God Elect and Choose particular Persons unto Life and Salvation.

But they who believe in time, were, before their Believing, ordained to Eternal Life.

Therefore God hath Elected and Chosen particular Persons unto Life and Salvation.

That Gods Præordination of Persons to Life and Salvation, doth preceed (or go before) Believing and Repentance; is plain from *Acts 13. 48.* *And as many as were ordained to Eternal Life Believed.* *Rom. 11. The Election hath obtained it.* *Jo. 10. 26. But ye Believe not, because ye are not of my Sheep, as I said unto you.* From which Scriptures it is most plain, that none do, or can (in time) Believe and repnt to Salvation, but such Persons as are theretofore appointed by Gods gracious purpose.

*Argu. 7.* If the Term Elect doth signifie and presuppose a Calling or Choosing some patticular Persons or Things, out from among other Persons or Things, then hath God out of so many, Elected some patticular Persons unto Eternal Salvation.

But

But the Term Elect doth signifie and presuppose a Calling or Choosing some particular Persons or Things out from among other Persons or Things.

Therefore, God hath out of many, Called and Chosen some particular Persons unto Eternal Life.

*Argu. 8.* If the Lord Jesus did lay down his Life but for a certain particular number of Sinners, then did God Elect and Choose a particular number to Life and Salvation.

But the Lord Jesus did lay down his Life for a certain particular number of Sinners.

Therefore God did Elect and Choose a particular number to Life and Salvation.

That the Lord Jesus did lay down his Life for a certain particular number, is obvious and plain to him that can but Read. *Jo. 10. 15. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my Life for the Sheep.* With this accords that of *Paul to Titus. Chap. 2. 14.* who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all Iniquity, and purchase to himself a peculiar People, Zealous of good Works. *Ephes. 5. 25. Husbands love your Wives, even as Christ also*

also Loved the Church, and gave himself for it, &c.

The Sheep of whom Christ speaks, can be understood to be no other but Believers, even such as Dy'd in the Faith before his Incarnation, with the Believers of that present day, and all who in time to come were to Believe in him: And these are the Souls who were by the Father committed to the Pastoral care and charge of Christ the Great Shepherd of the Sheep, as Sheep are committed to the care and charge of an under Shepherd.

For these Christ lays down his Life: To these, he (by his Spirit) actually applies the virtue of his Death: Over these he Watches: And to these only; (excluding all others) he gives Eternal Life.

That these were given to Christ by the Father, to be redeemed and brought to Glory, appears from *Jo. 6. 39.*

And this is the Fathers Will which hath sent me, That of all which he hath given me, I should loose nothing, but should raise it up at the Last Day. *Jo. 17. 6.* Thine they were, and thou gavest them me, &c. And Verse 2. As thou hast given him Power over all Flesh, that he should give Eternal Life to as

*many as thou hast given him. & Mark this Reader? To as many as thou hast given him.* This plainly proves that God did commit to the care and faithfulness of Christ his Shepherd, a certain particular number to be Justified and Saved by him; and therefore not all the Race of fallen Mankind, as *Papists, Arminians, Quakers, Free-Willers, &c.* vainly teach and hold.

Another Consideration, which is full of clearness, to convince and satisfy any right in their Minds, That not *Adam's* Posterity in General, (as the *Hereticks* above named would fain have it) but a certain particular and definite number were Elected and Chosen by God, and by him given to Christ his Son, to be Redeemed and Saved; is Christ his refusing to concern himself for any others, in the discharge of his Office of Intercessor, as appears from *Jo. 17. 9. I Pray for them, (that is, for the Elect, for whom he had undertaken as Kede'mony and Surety) I Pray not for the World, (that is, those of the World, who were by God left in a Reprobate State and Condition) as is evident from Jo. 17. 14. I have given them thy Word, and the World hath hated them because they are not of the World; even as I am not of the*

*the.*

*the World.* Here are two distinct Partys described by Christ, the one is Prayed for, the other is not; the one is hated, the other hates; the very Practice of the latter denotes the Persons to be Children of another Father, distinct from those they hate. There is nothing more discovers Men to be the Children of the Devil, than their hating Righteousness, and not loving those who appear to be Godly. 1 Jo. 3. 10. *In this the Children of God are manifest, and the Children of the Devil; whosoever doeth not Righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his Brother.*

As Love to God, his Truth, and such as bear his Image, is an infallible Character of an Elect Child of God. Jo. 13. 35. 1 Jo. 3. 14. 1 Jo. 4. 7.

So to hate God, his Truth, and such as bear his Holy Image, is the indelible Character of a Reprobate designed for Eternal Destruction. 1 Jo. 3. 10.

The second thing in the Proposition to be considered, is the End and Design of God in that Act of his in Electing and Choosing, which is twofold. First, as it respects the Creatures Elected, viz. that they might partake of the Special Grace of God here on Earth, and of Eternal Glory in the Kingdom of Heaven,

ven, through Christ his Son, according to that of Paul, *Ephes. 1. 4.* *According as he hath Chosen us in him before the Foundation of the World, that we should be Holy and without blame before him in Love.* 2 *Thef. 2. 13.* *Because God hath from the beginning Chosen you to Salvation, through Sanctification of the Spirit and Belief of the Truth.* *Vers. 14.* *Whereunto he called you by our Gospel, to the obtaining of the Glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.* 1 *Thef. 5. 9.* *For God hath not appointed us to Wrath, but to obtain Salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Secondly, with respect to God, Electing, viz. That the Glory of his Sovereign, Free, and rich Grace, might be Extolled and Praised for ever, according as the Apostle expresth it in *Ephes. 1. 6.* *To the Praise of the Glory of his Grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the Beloved.* *Vers. 11, 12.* *In whom also we have obtained an Inheritance, being predestinate, according to the purpose of him who worketh all things according to the Counsel of his own Will; that we should be to the Praise of his Glory, who first trusted in Christ.*

The third thing in the Proposition to be considered, is to take Notice of the



the Properties in that Act of God Electing.

Those Properties are in number three. First, God in Electing and Choosing some Sinners to himself out of the corrupted Mass of fallen Mankind, on whom he purposed to shew Mercy: He did Elect and Choose them most freely; there was nothing at all in the Objects Elect-ed and Chosen, that could move God wherefore he should Elect one Sinner more (or sooner) than another; for as fallen into Sin, and equally obnoxious to the Curse of the Law and the Wrath to come, were all the Sons and Daughters of *Adam*, lookt on by God, when he fixed his Electing Love on some, and actually rejected and passed others by, on whom the most High God, (as an uncontrollable Sovereign) purposed to execute the fierceness of his Wrath for Sin. The reason or impulsive cause of this Difference, which the tremendous God saw fit to make between Sinners, equally guilty and obnoxious to the Curse and Wrath of God, is not to be sought out of God himself. An Example and lively Instance hereof we have in *Rom. 9. 11.* which the Wise God hath seen fit should be recorded, on purpose to stop the mouth of Car-nal

nal reason, which is so wretchedly prone to Question (and Dispute) against his Sovereignty over his Creatures. *The Children being not yet Born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God, according to Election, might stand, not of Works, but of him that calleth. It was said unto her, the Elder shall serve the Younger. As it is Written, Jacob have I Loved, but Esau have I Hated.*

The Wise God foreseeing the purblind Reasonings and Cavillings of Carnal Mens un sanctified Brains, against the Doctrine of Gods absolute Sovereignty, in disposing of the Eternal concerns of his rational Creatures, fallen by Sin into a state and condition of Misery, through their own default; hath seen good (for the vindication of his own Prerogative) to make known to the Sons of Men, (and that by the unerring Wisdom and unquestionable Authority of so great a Man as *Paul*, the great Apostle of the *Gentiles*) the reason of Gods Method in proceeding to Elect some of fallen Mankind, to a state of Life and Salvation through a Redeemer, and Reprobating others, leaving them for ever to perish in that Sin and Misery, into which they did (without any constraint) wilfully plunge

plunge themselves, to be no other than his own most free and holy Will, seeing that he alone is the undoubted Sovereign of the World, who hath an indisputable right to determine what to do with, (or how to dispose of) Sinning Rebels, without being (any way liable to the controulment of any of his Creatures, especially such of them as (by Sin) have forfeited their very Being to the Divine Justice; and who (while in an unreconciled State) are not capable of knowing him, or of being subject to his Divine Law.

The good Will and Pleasure then of the Blessed God, is the Source and Fountain whence the great Disparity between the Elect and the Reprobate World doth spring, not any thing in the Creatures themselves, as *Arminian* Cavillers dream and conceit it doth: This will evidently appear, if the Reader will but (with a becoming modesty and unprejudic'd judgment) read the whole Chapter at length, and (with fervent Prayer to God for the Wisdom of his Spirit) look narrowly into, and with sobriety consider the 11th. and the 16th. Verses, where it plainly appears, that the two conceited Qualifications, of which the Enemies of Election are usually proud, and which they hold

hold and teach, are the procuring cause of the Difference between the good and the evil Men on Earth, viz. the Free Will in Man, and the good Works which unregenerate Men, do but conceit they do; they are both met with, and equally discarded by God, from having any room or place among the causes which put God either upon Choosing the Elect or rejecting the Reprobate. Mark the 11th. Vers. *That the purpose of God according to Election might stand, not of Works, but of him that calleth.* With this agrees Ephes. 2. 8. 9. *For by Grace are ye Saved through Faith, and that not of your selves; it is the Gift of God. Not of Works, lest any Man should boast.* And Tit. 3. 5. *Not by Works of Righteousness which we have done, but according to his Mercy he hath Saved us, &c.* Vain unregenerate Man would fain perswade himself that he is worse than Threadbare Rags of his polluted Morality; negative and positive is a covering sufficient not only to hide his Ulcerous and plague Sores of Guilt and Vileness, from the pure and All-seeing Eyes of an Infinite Majesty, but also to deck and adorn his Soul, so as to bespeak him an Object fit for a Holy God to behold with delight: Oh horrid delusion! worse than Frenzy, or Madness it self; this  
being

being but a Temporary Malady, which may (by the use of ordinary means) be holpen, but that the Bane and Destruction of the Immortal Soul, which nothing but the despised Grace of God in Christ can cure; such miserably deluded Souls will not find it easy to believe, that to think so highly of their own Qualifications, is the greatest bar or hinderance which keeps them from Salvation. Read also (with care) Vers. 16, *So then, it is not of him that Willeth, nor of him that runneth; but of God that sheweth Mercy.*

Let the Adversaries of the Doctrine I am now vindicating, but consider that Man as fallen into Sin and Misery of his own accord, is the Object of Election and Reprobation; and let them (if they can) tell or shew me how a Natural Man in his Lapsed, Guilty State, can (possibly) either Will or Act any thing, but what is (both for matter and manner) most vile and abominable in the sight of that God, who is Purity and Holiness it self in the Abstract.

And if so, wherefore then should the most Just and Holy God be conceived to elect Men for that which he can do no other than hate and loath, as the best Duties of an unregenerate Person, are both contrary to the Nature of God,  
and

and also repugnant to his Just and Holy Law?

When unregenerate Men talk and brag of their Duties and Qualifications, as that which must recommend them to God, and purchase for them a Right to the Crown that fades not away they, think, and speak as Men in a midnight Dream, not understanding what they say, or whereof they affirm; and the head Spring of this their Boasting of their Qualifications, is the profound Ignorance and Luciferian Pride, which sways their unrenewed Spirits, having never passed under the killing Severity of the Law of God, set home on the Conscience by the Spirit of Bondage, to prepare them for healing by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Until this Work of the Lord pass on the Soul, no Child of *Adam* can (possibly) prize the Son of God, or see himself to be utterly undone, till (with the Rich Man in the Parable) the unquenchable Flames of Hell discover his Misery to him, *Luke 16. 23.* From what hath been observed from the Scriptures now referred to, plain it is, that God, in Electing some and Reprobating others of *Adam's* Posterity, cannot (without Blasphemy) be said to elect or choose a-  
ny



ny Man to a state of Life and Glory, for any thing of good, which he foresaw, would be in the Sinner, fallen into a state of Sin and Misery: And therefore, if there was nothing of foreseen Good in the Creature elected, for which God had respect to him more than to another, it must unavoidably follow, that in God electing, (not in the Sinner elected) is the impulsive or moving Cause, (*viz.*) His own Sovereign good Pleasure.

God (as hath been already observed) in Electing and Reprobating Men, looks on them as fallen; and guilty Creatures, who had wrought their own Misery, by their voluntary breach of his Royal Law. To none of them was the most High (any way) obliged. He might have sent them all to the same Place and Condition of the fallen Angels, whose Conduct and Example they followed, in rebelling against their Holy Sovereign. And which of all the Reprobates (now in Hell) will it avail, to dispute the Point of God's Sovereignty with him? or to enquire why or wherefore he hath left them in that sad and deplorable Estate of Sin and Misery? Pertinent to the Business in hand, is that Query which *Augustin* puts in his Book of the City of God; *Quis fecit Reprobum?* saith he, *Who made the*  
*Repro-*

*Reprobate?* to which he himself replies, *Quis nisi Deus?* Who (saith he) but God?

Again he Queries, *Quare Deus fecit Reprobum?* Why did God make the Reprobate? to which he answers, *Quia ita voluit:* Because (saith he) it was his Will.

Again he Queries, *Quare Deus voluit Reprobum facere?* Why (saith he) was it God's Will to make the Reprobate a Reprobate? He answers the Cavilling Querist (or Saucy and Pragmatical Enquirer) with that of Paul, Rom. 9. 20. *O Homo tu quis es, Qui Respondeas Deo?* O Man, who art thou that Replyest against God?

If *Augustin* were now living on Earth, and should Read the Reply which *Grevincovius* (that Blaspheming Proud *Arminian*) made to the Query which Paul put to the called *Corinthian*, who excelled in the Gifts of God, 1 Cor. 4. 7. *For who maketh thee to differ? and what hast thou, that thou hast not received?* to which *Grevincovius* most Arrogantly and Blasphemously replies, *I my self make my self to differ.* I say, if *Augustin* were to Read this *Arminian's* Answer to Paul, it would not be difficult to guess at what rate *Augustin* would treat his Insolency.

If the abused Grace of God changed him not before Death, it is most dread-

ful

ful to think, and seriously to consider, how little the Freewill and Learning, of which he was greatly proud, do now avail him at the Barr of the Great Judge; no doubt but he finds (in woful Experience) what an *Impar Congressus* (or unequal Match) he is, for the great *Jehovah* to dispute Matters with. Oh! that Men of his Spirit and pernicious Principle were Wise, to consider things aright before they see and feel their Folly in the unquenchable Flames of God's Wrath in Hell.

Let it be farther considered, how expresses the Spirit of God is in charging on *Adam* and all his Off-spring (without Exception) the breach of his Law, and (on that very account) accounting them all guilty Criminals, and unclean Polluted Sinners, who (by their voluntary Apostacy) have forfeited his Favour and lost his Blessed Image, wherein the Glory and Happiness of the Rational Creature consisted, as the Apostle witnesseth *Rom. 3. 23. For all have sinned, and come short of the Glory of God. And in ver. 19. Now we know, that what things soever the Law saith, it saith to them, who are under the Law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. The conclusion whereof*

he sets down in ver. 20. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. With Paul concurs all the Prophets, and the other Pen-men of Holy Scriptures, setting forth the wretched Condition of all Mankind by the Apostacy of Adam, the natural and federal Head of his Children.

The Condition then of all Adam's Posterity being such, as renders every Sinner Culpable before God, and not only so, but utterly incapable of willing or acting the least part of that Duty, which God's Law requires to a helping or recovering himself out of that his Misery. It is most plain and obvious to every enlightened Understanding, that by the Tenure of the first Adam's Covenant, all are Born Heirs of the Curse and Wrath of an offended God; and are (by reason of that Spiritual Impotency, which is inflicted on Adam's Nature as a Punishment for breaking God's Law) as (altogether) unable to believe in an Atoning Saviour, (when offered by God in the Gospel of his Grace) as they are to perform the Condition of that Holy Law of God, the Violation and Breach whereof hath Cast and Condemn'd (at God's Barr) the whole Race of Mankind.

Man's

Man's wretchedness and Misery then is of himself, he can truly and justly blame none for it but himself. *Gen. 3. 17. Ecclesj. 7. 29. Hos. 13. 9.*

This granted, it (unavoidably and by necessary consequence) follows, that God is most Just and Righteous in Sealing (to the day of his Wrath) with the black Character of Reprobation, that part of *Adam's* Posterity, on whom he hath (fixedly) resolved to Glorify, that adoreable and tremendous Attribute of his infinite Justice, for breaking his Just and Righteous Law.

And where is the Man, who will undertake to prove God Unjust and Unrighteous, in case he had dealt with the Elect themselves, as he hath done with the Reprobates, (*viz.*) Seal them up to the Judgment of the Great Day of his Wrath? God is Debtor to none of *Adam's* Children, unless to Damn and Forsake them for ever, for their (Devil-like) Apostacy and Rebellion.

In this adoreable and tremendous Dispensation of his, in Reprobating the greatest part of Mankind, and electing to himself (out of the fallen and corrupted Mass) some few of Mankind, on whom he purposed to Glorify the Riches of his Grace, through Christ his Son. He act-

towards both, in a way of absolute Sovereignty, so that as the Reprobates cannot say they have not merited that Curse and Misery, which is like to be their Portion for ever, so neither shall the Elect be ever able to attribute their Salvation to any other Cause, besides the Sovereign free and rich Grace of God, which (had it pleased God) might have fixt its hold on the Reprobates, making them the Elect, while they themselves were overlookt and passed by.

For my own part, I must (ingeniously) confess, that I am so far from reflecting on God, as (any way) Unjust or Partial, for dealing with *Adam's* Children as he doth, that I am rather astonished to think, that any of *Adam's* Opposite Offspring should ever escape that Curse and Wrath, to which they were all equally Born Heirs apparent. *Ephes.*

*2. 3. And were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

This, this was the State and Condition of the Elect themselves, as they are the natural Offspring of *Adam*: But the Banner of God's free Grace, and undeserved Love and Pity hath been (by the Arm of Divine Sovereignty) effectually displayed over them, when in their Blood and Wretchedness, even then when God



first laid the Foundation of their Salvation in Election. According to *Ephes. 1. 4, 5, 6, 7.* and *Ephes. 2. to the 10. ver.* Well may every justified believer cry out with Paul, *Rom. 11. 33.* O' Badd! Ob the depth of the Riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his Judgments, and his ways past finding out!

In this bottomless Profundity (or Depth) of God's Unsearchableness, the Wit and corrupt Reason of Unregenerate Men, with all their acquired Parts, are swallowed up and confounded; by reason whereof it comes to pass, that many times such as are admired for their great Reason and Learning, will not allow the Creator of the World that Priviledge, which they readily grant to a Man like themselves, (*viz.*) To decree or act any thing but what their blind Reason and perverted Judgment can see a Reason for it. Ob what an Age do we live in! wherein the Immensity and Unsearchableness of God is (on every occasion of Mens disputing Principles of Religion) called on to hold up the Hand at the Barr of those Mens Carnal Reason, who indeed have lost the use of right Reason.

Of such Men I would gladly know, whether they can, (with all their Mother

Wit, deckt and adorn'd with all their  
 Academical Learning, ) Fathom the  
 depth of the Created Ocean, or tell the  
 exact number of the Stars, and what In-  
 fluence they have on Humane Bodies?  
 If they can tell how the Soul and Body  
 of man are United? Or how the Bones  
 grow in the Womb of the Woman with  
 Child? With many other Secrets in Na-  
 ture, not only difficult, but even im-  
 possible to be found out by the Wit and  
 Learning of *Adam's* Children: Witness  
 the many Learned Philosophers, where-  
 with the World abounded, whose Wit  
 and Learning came vastly short in find-  
 ing out and tracing the Almighty in his  
 Works of Creation and Providence:  
 From whence I Argue, *A Minore ad  
 Majus*, From the Lesser to the Greater.  
 If all the Mother Wit and acquired Parts  
 and Learning of the Children of *Adam*  
 could never find out many Secrets in the  
 Works of Creation and Providence, how  
 much more impossible is it for them, to  
 find out the Almighty Creator himself  
 to perfection?

The Query which *Zophar* the *Namathite*  
 put to *Job*, will never be an-  
 swered by any Creatures in Earth or  
 Heaven any other way than in the Nega-  
 tive, *Job* 11. 7. *Canst thou by searching*  
 find

find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty to perfection?

And from what Source or Fountain Mens Atheistical and Sawcy Reflections, on God, (for making such a difference between Adam's Children, in Saving but few (in Comparison) and Dammning the rest) should spring. I cannot tell, unless from their profound Ignorance of the Immense and Incomprehensible Perfection of God's Being, and their not owning and believing his absolute Sovereignty over his Creatures.

I Appeal to the Conscience of every Savingly Enlightened Man, who Reads this, whether this wilful and affected Ignorance of God, and their denying his absolute Sovereignty over his Creatures, be not the very Portal or Door, at which the horrid Profaneness and matchless Debaucheries of this worst of Ages (which now lays the Kingdoms open to utter Ruine) have entred the Stage.

This is that which the Devil and his busy Agents (the *Romish* Jesuits) aim'd at, when (in the late K. *J.* his Reign) they obtained the King's Royal Prohibition, forbidding Ministers, both *Nan.* and *Con.* to meddle (in Preaching) with the Doctrine of Election and Reprobation. They well know how Subservient the

keeping the People Ignorant of the Doctrine of Election, would be to open the Floodgates to Profaneness and Debauchery, and (consequently) prepare *England* for a ready Reception of cursed and damning Popery.

The denying the Doctrine of God's Sovereignty, in Electing and Reprobating Lapsed and Guilty Rebels, and teaching and maintaining, both in Pulpit and Print, Freewill to good in Unregenerate Men, as also the Doctrine of general Redemption is a Doctrine which is altogether Unscriptural; and because of Mens Violence and Peremptoriness in Teaching and Propagating the same, and their Obstinacy in refusing to receive and submit to the contrary Doctrine, which is according to the Scriptures and the only Doctrine, which designs the Destruction of Sin in the Hearts and Lives of true Believers; and the Promoter of true Holiness: God most Justly punisheth such People with a giving them up, not only to believe the most Nonsensical Lyes, (for true Religion) but even to wallow like Swine in the Mire of the grossest Immoralities, even to an excelling the very Pagan World.

To illustrate the point I am now defending against the *Quakers* and *Armini-*  
ans,

( 35 )  
this, viz. That God in Electing some and  
Reprobating others, doth Act therein  
most freely, as an absolute Sovereign:  
Let them give me leave to put this Que-  
stion to their Reason and Conscience,  
(such as it is) suppose that all the several  
Parties in the City, who differ in their  
Mode (or Way) of Worshipping God,  
should (in their respective Meetings, in-  
stead of Worshipping God) lay all their  
Heads, Hearts and Hands together, to  
contrive and carry on a Plot against the  
King and the Fundamental Laws of the  
Kingdom, with a full intent to destroy  
both the one and the other; to which  
Plot all the several Parties do (as one  
Man) harmoniously and unanimously a-  
gree, the Law condemns not only the  
Practice (as Traiterous and Treasonable)  
but Sentences the very Persons (all and  
singular) who are prov'd to have had any  
hand in such a Plot, to a shameful and  
cruel Death.

The Plot comes to be Discovered,  
upon Discovery, the King, who hath the  
Executive Power of the Law in his own  
hand, he considers the matter, and find-  
ing that all these several Parties, (whom  
he took to be Loyal Subjects) are turned  
Rebels; as most evidently appears by  
the unnatural Plot, lately engaged in by  
them.

them all, against both his Person and Government; for which, both he and they know full well the Law condemns them all alike.

The King, to whom the Executive Power of the Law belongs, according to his Prerogative, he Nominates two Select Parties out of all the rest, viz. *Quakers* and *Arminians*, to whom he resolves to extend his Favour, in giving to them his Royal Pardon; the other several Parties (distinct from them) he resolves to leave them to the Sentence of the Law, to undergo the deserved Penalty thereof, for that horrid and unnatural Rebellion. I would fain know what the *Quakers* and *Arminians* could object against the King of England, for passing an Act of Indemnity (or Free Pardon) on the People called *Quakers* and *Arminians*, and leaving all the other Parties to suffer Death.

Seeing that (herein) the King Acts by Prerogative, not according to Desert; for the *Quakers* and *Arminians* deserved Death as well as the rest, who are excluded out of the Pardon: My reason tells me that the *Quakers* and *Arminians* would be so far from charging the King with Injustice or Partiality, that they would rather sound forth his Praise, for saving them by his Favour and Mercy,



(no way deserved) whom in strictness of Justice, he might have left to the Sentence of the Law.

And in case any of the Criminals condemned to Die, should offer to murder against the King, for making such a Difference between his (equally) guilty Subjects, would not the *Quaker* and the *Arminian* both Plead the Kings Prerogative for saving themselves, when at the same time, and by the same Sovereignty he pass by the rest; and shall the King of Kings be Disputed against and Reflected on for Acting (in matters of the like nature) by his own undoubted Prerogative.

If any should be so fancy and bold, as to demand a reason why or wherefore the King of England should leave seven or eight several Parties out of his Royal Pardon, and extend the Benefit thereof only to two Select Parties, who were both as liable to Death (by the Law) as the others; the Answer is ready; it is the Kings Sovereign Will and Pleasure to make the two Select Parties Nominated in his Pardon, Objects of his Pity and Mercy, and the rest to be the Objects of his incensed Justice, to undergo that Death and Misery which they (by Rebellion) brought upon themselves.

New

Now in all this, hath not the Potter power over the Clay of the same lump, to make one Vessel to Honour, and another to Dishonour? *Rom. 9. 21.*

Reader, I pray consider, that the lump in the place now quoted, intends no other than Men and Women, whom God (the absolute Sovereign of the World) Decreed to Create: The making Vessels is Gods Creating Mankind with a purpose to permit their Fall.

His making one Vessel to Honour, and the other to Dishonour, is Gods Creating one with a fixed purpose to recover him out of that fallen State, into which he was to fall, (and that by Sovereign Grace); the other he leaves to Die and Perish in that wretched State, into which he (of his own default) fell.

In this Procedure God is altogether free; neither can the Creature so left by God, any way reflect on God, as dealing unjustly or unequally with him; and the reason is, because God is under no Tye or Obligation to give Grace to that Creature, who (of his own accord) did abuse and throw away that stock of Grace, whereby he was rendred capable of keeping the Law of his Maker; and who by the Instinct of his vitiated and corrupted Nature, doth obstinately oppose

pose and resist the means of Cure, propounded and tendred in the Gospel.

So that the point in Controversy, between me and the Adversaries already Named, is in this comparison propounded in the Verse last quoted, lively set forth; from which it is apparent, that the design of the Apostle is to prove that God (as the undoubted Sovereign of the World) who Acts what him pleaseth, and that according to the Counsel of his own most Holy Will, decreed to make some of the corrupted Mass to be Vessels of Mercy, and of the rest Vessels of Wrath; and that by Electing some unto himself, upon whom he purposed to bestow his Love, with all the means tending to fit and prepare those Persons so Elected and Chosen, for the actual enjoyment of that Love.

Such as a Redeemer, to Die for them; Faith, whereby they should be made Partakers of that Redeemer, with all the saving Graces of the Spirit, promised in the Covenant of Grace, with final perseverance in Grace to the end; the rest (as hath been before observed) he left (or passed over) purposing to leave them in that wretched and deplorable Condition, into which they (causelessly) plung'd themselves.

Neither

Neither is God therefore the cause why the Reprobate is Sinful and Wicked, but his own Will; which being left to its own natural freedom, did most freely and readily choose that which was by Gods Law forbidden, upon pain of Gods Displeasure and Curse.

The second Property in Gods Act of Election, is its unchangeableness, and therefore, most certain it is, that he or she whom God hath once purposed to Love and Save, shall never finally (or totally) fall away from Grace, or misery eternally, *Psal. 33. 11. The Counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the Thoughts of his Heart to all Generations.*

What is Gods Election of some to Life Eternal, (and the means leading thereto) but the Birth or Product of his own Counsel? *Rom. 9. 11. The purpose of God according to Election, must stand.* And Oh! what an unspeakable cause of rejoycing is this very Consideration to that Man, or Woman; who find in themselves the Fruits (or Effects) of the New Birth, to think and believe, that they (in particular) are chosen to Life Eternal, by him who cannot change that purpose of his, wherewith he hath purposed to Save so poor and miserable a Sinner,

as

as the effectually called Sinner looks on himself to be.

Neither is the poor weak Believer to doubt, but that those Sm's and Backslidings, both of his Heart and Life, for which he will be but too apt to fear and conclude, God will at length cast him off, were all perfectly known to God, even then when he Elected him to Salvation; notwithstanding which, God fixt his Love and embraced the poor Sinner in the Bosom of his irreversible Decree, when nothing of Loveliness, (but rather the contrary) appeared to the Eye of Gods Præcognition (or fore knowledge) in the Soul, so pitcht on by his Decree.

Whom God once loves with that Electing Love, he loves them to the end, *Jer. 31. 8. Mal. 3. 6. Jo. 13. 1. Rom. 11. 29.* And as Gods Act in Electing is without change, so (in the third place) it was from Eternity; though the work of effectual Calling and Saying Conversion be in time, yet Gods decree and purpose of bestowing that Grace and Mercy on the Elect Sinner was before time: So witnesseth the Apostle, *Acts 15. 18. Known unto God are all his Works, from the beginning of the World. Ephes. 1. 4. According as he hath chosen us in him before the Foundation of the World.*

*World. 2 Thes. 2. 13. From the beginning hath God chosen you. Rev. 17. 8. Whose Names were not written in the Book of Life, from the Foundation of the World.*

The Electing Love of God it is from one Eternity to another, as it did commence before time; so when time shall be swallowed up of endless Eternity, this Love of God (to his Elect, and chosen in Christ) will be (and continue) the same for ever.

And therefore, let that Believer, who feels himself inwardly and frequently annoyed with those discouraging Fits of fickleness and unconstancy, in walking with God (in the way of New Obedience) take Sanctuary here by Faith, applying to himself the sweet Benefits of these Properties of Gods Electing Love, filling both his Head and Heart with the thoughts and fixed persuasion, that the Blessed God, who is the Infinite Sovereign of the World, (who Acts all things which please himself, according to the Counsel of his own Will) hath of his own good pleasure chosen him a poor, unworthy, empty, nothing Creature, to be a Vessel of Mercy, (through Jesus Christ) to the Praise of the Glory of his own Grace: And that Love, wherewith God hath Loved him, it began towards him.



him before he had an actual Being, yea, before the World was: And as that Love of God was set on him before time began, so when time it self shall be no more, that Love of God to him shall still be endless, like God himself. Nothing more conduceth (under God) to Heart Settlement, in the ways of God, then to be well Verſt in Understanding and Believing, (with application to ones ſelf) theſe Fundamental Principles of Goſpel Religion.

And this one thing I deſire the Reader to remember, and carefully to obſerve, viz. That if there were no other Argument to evince and make good the Truth I have now aſſerted, than the Arduous and Elaborate endeavours of Satan and his buſy Agents, both in Preaching and Printing againſt the Doctrines of Election and Reprobation, it were ſufficient. The Devil and the Pope know full well how deſtructive and pernicious to both their Kingdoms, the bringing Sinners to the Scriptural Knowledge and right Believing this Doctrine will be.

And therefore for preventing hereof, the Doctrine it ſelf muſt be expoſ'd in the blackeſt hue, as a Doctrine which makes Men proud, ſecure, and careleſs of good Works, and which leads Men to looſe Living;

Living; and in the end to final Desperation: And as the Doctrine it self is shot at by the *Romish* and *Arminian* Archers, so the most zealous and bold Assertors and Maintainers of it, are set out in the most odious and black colours; which Envy and Malice it self can devise; but maugre all the Craft and Envy of Devil and his most subtil and industrious Tools the Doctrine of particular Election (before time) is plainly held forth and asserted in the Writings of *Moses*, the Prophets; and the Holy Apostles: And in case Divine Providence calls to a suffering Condition for defence of it, I do not doubt but God hath a Sealed number in these Kingdoms, (known to himself) who will be enabled to Seal the Truth of it with their dearest Blood.

An Objection or two lyes in the way to be answered, before I can proceed to what remains behind.

Object. 1. The Doctrine of particular Election puffs Man with Pride.

Ans. The contrary to this the Devil himself knows to be true.

For I doubt not but Satan hath made his Observations, that none of all Gods  
called

called Children, have more abounded with Humility and self Abasement, than those who have had the highest assurance of Gods Electing Love: None but these can rightly admire and adore the Grace and Love of God in Christ Jesus.

To me, who am less than the least of all Saints, is this Grace given, &c. crys that great Apostle of the Gentiles, Ephes. 3. 8. That is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, That Jesus Christ came into the World to save Sinners, of whom I am the chief. 1 Tim. 1. 15. For I am the least of the Apostles, that am not worthy to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. 1 Cor. 15. 9. But by the Grace of God I am what I am. Vers. 10. It is to be observed, that among all the Apostles, none was more highly advanced, (in respect of extraordinary Manifestations and Gospel Revelations, than Paul was; and yet among all the Apostles none more abased: No greater admirer of Free Grace than he was; and indeed, not only Paul, but others also, both under the Old Testament, and under the New, whom Free Grace singled out to be Vessels of Mercy: These were still addicted to go out of themselves in a way of self Abasement, and crying up the Riches of Gods Grace and Mercy every

every way free and undeserved by them. And herein I appeal (most freely) to the Personal Experience of every regenerate Believer, (now Living) whether they do not find in themselves, that the nearer they come to know and perceive the Love of God to themselves in particular, the more vile they are in their own esteem; and the more the Sight and Sense of their own Nothingness grows and abounds, the more are they inwardly stirred up to Adore and Magnifie the Riches of Gods Free Grace, who hath vouchsafed to regard such poor contemptible Worms, as they judge themselves to be.

*Object. 2. The Doctrine of particular Election cuts off the force and strength of all Threatenings and Warnings which are Recorded in the Scriptures, as a Curb and Bit, to restrain Men from Sin.*

*Ans.* The ever Blessed and Holy God, who decreed to elect and choose a particular number to Salvation, hath decreed also the means of bringing them to that End, whereof those Threatenings and Warnings scattered here and there in God's Word, are a part; the which the good Spirit of God makes (effectually) useful to work and encrease in the Elect,

Elect, (called to State of Grace) the Filial and Reverential fear of God; as also to Caution them against all kind of Declinings in the way of Holy walking with God, in the way of new Obedience to his Holy Commandments; the which God hath revealed in his Word, to be the only way, in which true Believers must go to an actual Possessing the purchased Inheritance, according to *Psal.* 1. 1, 2, 3. *Psal.* 119. 1, 2, 3. *Heb.* 12. 14.

These Divine Threats and Warnings are (through the saving Influence of the Spirit of Grace) made a powerful Bit and Curb, to restrain the savingly Converted from returning (with Approbation and Delight) to former (and forsaken) Folly, and not only so, but to keep them more close to their Duty in a Gospel Dependence on Christ, their Mediatorial Head, for all manner of Supplies, till they come to Glory.

Those Threats and Warnings (if they were ten thousand times more than they are) will never curb or restrain any Reprobate from loving and liking Sin.

'Tis true, that (through the common Operation of the Spirit of God) such Threats and Warnings may for a time influence a Hypocrite to a keeping him from the External gross Act of Sin, and

is putting him on doing many things which are (Morally) good in themselves. But Alas! what will this avail, while the State of the Man is unchanged, and his Heart unrenewed. Sad Instances hereof are Recorded in God's Word; witness Pharaoh, *Exod.* 7. 4. and Judas *Mat.* 26. 15. *Mat.* 27. 5. with many other Reprobates, whose Names are left on Record in the Book of God, who were neither restrained from Sin, nor yet kept back from running headlong to Hell, with this Bit in their Mouths. The Spirit of God (by the Holy Prophet) gives a full Description of the natural Disposition of wicked Hypocrites, as touching the Incurigibility of their Hearts, in going on in Sin, not only under God's Rod, but also under his favourable Dispensation, which (one would think) should win them to Repentance, *Jer.* 5. 3. *Rev.* 16. 9, 10, 11. *Esa.* 26. 10, 11. *Rom.* 2. 4, 5.

Object. 3. If I be elected to Life eternal (before time,) I may live as I list; I need neither to Believe, to Repent, or to use the means of obtaining Salvation. And though I live after the Flesh, I shall be Saved, being elected.

Ans.



*Ans.* To this threadbare Objection (which is commonly in the Mouths of all Cavillers against the Doctrine of Election) I answer in two Particulars.

*First,* This Objection doth not (in the least) find any Encouragement from the Doctrine of particular Election (before time,) as will evidently appear by the Inseparableness of the End, and the means asserted and held forth in the Word of God, and constantly maintained by the Orthodox against *Papists*, *Arminians*, &c.

He who hath elected to Life eternal, he hath also elected to the means; such as, believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, held forth and offered in the Gospel; Repenting for Sinning against God; advancing in Holiness, and Persevering in the same to the end: From whence it plainly appears, that he who makes this Objection, is either wilfully ignorant not (in the least) understanding the Doctrine of Election, (according to Divine Revelation) or which is (unspeakably) worse, an affected Caviller and a wicked Subverter of the Gospel. Suppose I should Query of the *Papist*, the *Arminian*, the *Quaker*, and *Freemiller*, (who are all agreed in opposing and de-

crying

crying the Doctrine of particular Election before time, and Perseverance to the end, whether they believe that God hath decreed, or absolutely determined in himself) how long he (or they) shall Live or continue in this World? The Answer will (undoubtedly) be in the Affirmative, (*viz.*) That God hath decreed (or determined) in himself, how long he (or they) are to live or continue in this World.

If then (say I) you believe, that God hath decreed (in himself) how long you are to live or continue in this World, what need you to mind any of the Concerns of this World, for the Support of Humane Life? why will you so insatiably covet the perishing Riches, and the transitory Pleasures of the present World, seeing God hath decreed how long you are to live?

The Answer again will be, he that hath decreed how long I am to live in this World, he hath also decreed and (in his revealed Will) commanded me to Exercise my Reason, and my other natural Faculties, in order to procure and make use of the ordinary means, such as Food, Rayment, Physick, and the like, whereby (in an ordinary way) the Life and Health of the Body are secured and main-

maintained. Here (in the Conberds of the Body) they are sharp and witty enough, even to an over-doing thousands of the Children of God. But in the Concerns of the Soul they are as Corrupt and Heterodox, as they are sound and rational in the other.

If a *Papist* or an *Arminian* should fix his Purpose of Building a House in such or such a place, it cannot be (rationally) supposed, that he intends to Build without Materials; therefore my Reason tells me, that in order to accomplish that his Purpose, he hath also purposed to provide all the several Materials necessary for such a Purpose.

*Qui serit vult finem, Media erant ad finem illum tendentia vult.* He who (in good earnest) wills the end, he also wills the means leading to that end, is a sure Rule, both in Logick and Divinity. And why these *Popish Arminian* Cavillers should not allow it its proper place in the Doctrine of Election (before time,) I can understand no other Reason for it, than either because God hath judicially smitten them with blindness of Mind, that they should not be able to understand or believe this amazing Doctrine of Election before time, or else because God hath left them (as he did *Pharaoh*)

to harden themselves, that they might, with the greater Acuteness and Stubbornness, oppose and withstand his Sovereignty, in Electing some and Reprobating others of the same fallen and corrupted Mass, and that before time.

*Secondly,* As there can be no Argument more Cogent and Irrefragable, to evince and prove a Man to be either a Fool or a Madman, than his resolving to expect the Accomplishment of the end, (such as Building a House or Living in the World) without the use of the proportionate means leading to such ends; for there is no Argument which more strongly proves a Man or Woman to be of the number of Reprobates, than to expect or hope to go to Heaven, in the continued and approved Neglect of Believing in the Son of God, Repenting of Sin, living a Holy Life, and Persevering in the same to the end of Life.

*Object 4. The Doctrine of Election before time, doth not only encourage to Sin, but it leads People to final Desperation, for preventing of which, all imaginable care ought to be taken, to suppress and deny it.*

*Ans<sup>r</sup>.*

*Ans.* To this Horrid and Blasphemous Objection I shall (in Christs strength) Answer in four Particulars.

And First, I do boldly affirm in the Name of the ever Blessed Trinity, That this Blasphemous Objection did (originally) spring from that Spirit which charged the Son of God with casting out Devils by *Beelzebub*, which (if I mistake not) is the unpardonable Sin against the Holy Ghost, and such as peremptorily (with allowance and approbation) persist in making and liking the same, against the Doctrine of Election, so plainly revealed and so positively asserted by the Holy Ghost; I am not afraid to declare and pronounce them the Children and Successors of those *Pharisees* (now in Hell) who vented that unpardonable Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. *Mat. 12, 24. 32.* Let all Cavilling Adversaries who bring this Objection against the Doctrine of Gods absolute and free Election (beforetime) have a care they be not found Ranked among those mighty Sinners, who in the height of their Wickedness, run themselves most desperately upon the thick Bosses of the Almightyes Buckler. *Job 15. 26.*

Secondly, If the Doctrine of Election be such a dangerous Doctrine as leads to

D 2 Licentiousness,

Licentiousness, and which (in the end) brings Men to Desperation. I would fain know how it comes to pass that the Enemies of this Doctrine are such Slaves to their Brutish Lusts, and why so many of them Die in Despair, when under powerful Awakenings and common Convictions in their guilty Consciences ?

Thirdly, I do with greatest confidence and certain assurance (grounded on the Word of God, and backt with my own Personal experience) affirm, That as the right Knowledge and Believing of the Doctrine of Election (before time) with a particular application thereof to ones self, is the only Doctrine that sets the Heart of a true Believer against all Sin, and which secures and keeps the Believer from Desperation in the time of the deepest Desertion, and most violent Temptation ; so the Doctrine of Free Will and general Redemption is a Doctrine which encourageth to Sin, and which necessarily leads to Desperation.

Here two things are to be demonstrated. First, That the Doctrine of Election (before time) rightly understood, and particularly applied by Faith, is the only Doctrine which engages the Heart of a sound Believer against all known Sin, and which fortifys and secures the Believer



Believer against Desperation in the time of the deepest Desertion, and the most violent Temptation.

Secondly, That the Doctrine of Free Will and general Redemption, is a Doctrine which encourageth to Sin, and which (necessarily) leads to Desperation.

The first of these will evidently appear to him that rightly considers and believes the Particulars following.

First, the Purpose and Design of God the Father (in Electing) which was, That his Elect and Chosen, who were fallen into Sin and Misery in *Adam*, their Natural and Federal Head, might be delivered, and (by strong hand) rescued out of that state of Sin and Misery, and made effectual Partakers of that Liberty and Redemption, purchased by Christ his Son, the Sponsor and Surety of his Elect.

Secondly, the design of Christ (the Surety and Sponsor of the Elect) in the whole Work of Mediation, which he undertook to go through for the Elect (which his Father had chosen in him) which was to purchase for, and (in time) to apply (actually) to the Elect the saving Benefit of that Freedom and Redemption purchased by himself.

Thirdly, The design and office of the Holy Ghost, which is to sanctify and renew the Souls of the Elect in effectual Calling, and to carry on and maintain the Work of Grace (begun in the Believer) to the end.

Fourthly, The design of the Gospel in revealing and discovering the Mystery of Gods Love and Grace to his Elect and Chosen, which is, that Believers might (by virtue of Christs Death, savingly applied) Dye unto all Sin, and that they might (by virtue of Christs Resurrection) walk in newness of Life before God.

Fifthly, The design of Divine Providence towards true Believers, which is, to purge them from the remains of indwelling Sin more and more, and to make them more and more to abound in Holy Conformity to Christ their Mystical Head.

All these (as so many Lines in a Center) do meet in the Doctrine of particular Election, the which when the Believer seriously considers, and (by Faith) applies to himself, he is so far from being drawn either to Sin or Desperation thereby, as that he finds the quite contrary in himself, *viz.* an admirable Aversion and Repugnancy, to yield consent to the flattering Sollicitations of Sin, and an Anchor

chor hold, which powerfully keeps him from descending into the Darksome Valley of Desperation, which is (as I may say) the very entrance into Hell it self.

When the Believer is at any time attacked by Satan, his enticing Instruments, or by indwelling Corruption, to yield to the motions of Sin, he fetcheth Arguments against Sin from the Doctrine of Gods Election thus: Hath God from all Eternity fixt his gracious purpose of Delivering and Rescuing me out of that state of Sin and Misery, into which the Apostacy of Adam, (my Natural and Federal Head) plunged me; and that by choosing out and fixing on his own Son to be a Surety and Saviour to purchase a liberty, and to work out a perfect and compleat Redemption for me; and shall I? can I (with approbation) yield my full consent to grieve and offend this freely and this dearly Loving God? I cannot do it, neither can all the Craft and Policy of my Spiritual Enemies ever work me to a willingness to go back into that state of Spiritual Captivity, under Sin and Satan, from which the Grace of God (in Election, and effectual Calling) hath set me free.

Secondly, Hath Christ the Son of God, (pursuant to his Fathers Holy Decree and Gracious Purpose, and in compliance

wish so noble and glorious a Design, as Redemring Captive Sinners, and reconciling them to his Father) consented to become a Mediator for me, to work out, a work of perfect Redemption for me that I might be set at liberty from the Laws Curse, from the dominion of Sin, and the Usurpation and Tyranny of the Devil? and shall I consent to commit Sin against such Bowels of Mercy and Love? I cannot do it.

Thirdly, Hath the Holy Ghost, (who in conjunction with the Father and the Son, had a Hand in my Election to Eternal Life) vouchsafed to take on him the Office of a Sanctifier, to Sanctifie and Renew the Elect in effectual Calling, and who hath begun in me the Work of Special Sanctification, and will never (finally) leave me, till he hath perfected his Work begun in me; and shall I? can I willingly grieve and offend that Holy Spirit, by whom I am Sealed to the day of Redemption? I cannot do it.

Fourthly, Is the Gospel appointed by Father, Son, and Holy Ghost to be a Word of Revelation, to discover to me how the Heart of God, his Christ and Holy Spirit stood affected towards the Elect, (and toward me in particular) from Eternity and to endless Eternity; and not  
only

only so, but that the same might be a rule of Direction to me (all my Days) to discover the false ways I am to shun and avoid, as also the Paths I am to walk in, in order to a pleasing the Holy Trinity, and coming safe to Heaven; and shall I? can I consent to abuse so sweet and excellent a Gospel? I cannot do it.

Fifthly, Is the design of Divine Providence (in all its various Dispensations to the Elect) and to me in particular, to purge Believers from the remains of indwelling Corruption, and to make them more and more to abound in Holy Conformity to Christ, their Mystical Head; and shall I abuse it by Sinning against it, and taking an occasion therefrom to be vain and secure in my Conversation? I cannot do it.

And as the true Believer is enabled, (being taught and guided by the Holy Ghost) to fetch Arguments against Sin from the five Sacred Topicks now mentioned; so is he (in like manner) enabled, being savingly influenced by the Inhabitation of the Holy Ghost in him, to fetch from the above Named Topicks, Arguments to keep him from final Desperation, in the most violent Hurrycane of Temptation which can attend on a deserted or an afflicted Condition.

To evince and clear up this Truth, (for the comfort and encouragement of the Poorest Believer, in an Hour of sore Distress, when the Waters of Affliction reach even to the very Soul, to a sensible endangering the extinguishing the little Grace lodged in the Soul; let it be seasonably and seriously considered, that the Believer when he finds Satan, his wicked Instruments, and indwelling Corruption all conjunctly together, pressing and working his Soul within, to despair of Mercy and Salvation, he falls on Arguing from the sweet Doctrine of Gods Election thus; Shall I, can I who am secured of Life Eternal by the Gracious and Unchangeable Decree of the immutable God) despair of Mercy and Salvation, as Satan, the wicked World, and my own Carnal reason would have me do? I cannot do it. If it were possible that my sinking Soul should drop (through the very Laws of Despondency) into Hell it self, from thence would Gods unchangeable purpose of Grace fetch and deliver it.

Secondly, Shall I, or can I, for when Christ the Son of God hath undertaken (as a Sponsor and Surety) and for whom he hath wrought a perfect Reconciliation by his own Mediatorial Righteousness, in which no Spot or Defect ever was, or  
ever



ever shall be found by God, Angels or Men, despair of Mercy and Salvation, as Devil, wicked Men, and my own Carnal reason would fain perswade me to do? I cannot do it.

Thirdly, shall I, to and for whom the Holy Ghost is become a Sanctifier and a Renewer of my Nature, and who (by his saving influential Presence) dwells in me, never (finally) to leave me till his good work of Grace begun in my Soul in effectual Calling, be compleatly perfected) despair of Mercy and Salvation, as the Devil, wicked Men, and my own Carnal reason would have me do? I can by no means do it.

Fourthly, Shall I who have all the sweet and precious Promises of the Gospel, of Gods Love and Grace to comfort and assure me, that God, Christ, and the Blessed Spirit, will never, never fail or forsake me, despair of Mercy and Salvation, as mine Enemies would perswade me to do? I cannot do it.

Lastly, Shall I, (who have the Divine Providence engaged for me, to uphold me to purge out the remains of indwelling Sin in me, and to forward me in conforming to my Mystical Head Christ, in Holiness, despair of Mercy and Salvation, as mine Enemies would have me? I cannot.

not do it. This is the use which a true Believer makes of the Doctrine of Gods Election (before time) while Faith (in the Believer) is in its right Exercise; none will stumble at it, (so as Eternally to Perish) but such as are not (by that Act of Gods Electing Decree) given to Christ (before time) to be actually Redeemed in time.

Secondly, The Doctrine of Free Will and General Redemption, is a Doctrine which encourageth to Sin, and which (necessarily) leads to Desperation. I shall offer two things to consideration, for evincing and clearing up this for Truth; the which I desire the Reader to weigh and consider without prejudice.

First, The use which all unregenerate Men make of the Doctrine of Free Will, which sad experience teacheth, is this: I will turn to God by Repentance, I will Believe in an Attoning Saviour, I will fall on the work of Reformation, and thereby prevent my perishing by the deserved Judgments of God, when I see my own time, and when I am thereto disposed; who sees not, (except one Spiritually Blind) how greatly this Doctrine doth encourage to Sin: For (saith my Carnal reason, as often it hath while I was in a state of Nature) if I do not

return to God upon his Call and Invitation this Day, this Month, this Year, I fully purpose and resolve to do it the next; for God hath implanted in my Soul a Principle of Free Will, whereby I am enabled to answer his Call, by Repenting, Believing and Reforming; the which when I do, (though not as present) God will have Mercy on me, and I shall be accepted, being secured by that General Redemption provided for all who so Repent, Believe and Reform. Woful and sad experience convinceth me, that many God provoking Follies and Vanities of Youth (in my Heart and Life) have been indulged by this deceiving, cursed Doctrine: Oh! how often hath Carnal reason (within me) cryed out, when the common Motions of the Spirit of God hath toucht my Conscience, to call on me to convert and turn to God? I will Repent, I will Convert, I will turn to God to morrow, to morrow: As *Augustin* confesseth of himself, he often put God off with his Free-will, *Cras, Cras, To morrow, to morrow.* Till at length he grew both ashamed and weary of his graceless to morrow, crying out to the Almighty (in the very hour of his effectual Conversion) *Quam Diu Domine Clamabo Cras, Cras? Quare Non*  
*Ido.*

*Hodie Domine, &c. How long, O Lord, shall I cry to morrow, to morrow? Why, O Lord, should I not be Converted this very day?*

And as an Unregenerate Man takes Encouragement from this Principle, to go on in Sin, so it leads him to Desperation: Of this also my sad Experience hath fully convinc'd me, as plainly appears by the near approach I made to Hell, (in my own Apprehensions) while I bordered so near the Confines of final Desperation, finding in my self how vastly short my Personal Qualifications came of answering the Laws demand, as a Condition of Life and Salvation. I found that nothing could possibly quiet or satisfy my wounded, despairing Conscience, but what doth effectually appease and satisfy that Holy God, against whom I have so many thousands of times offended, which can be nothing short of an infinite Righteousness; which Righteousness can be had no where but in Christ God Man, and no way to be had but in a way of Believing, of which Mystery my blind and perverted Reason was as ignorant as a Beast: And not only so, but my Heart and Soul were Zealously set against looking for Life and Salvation in any other way than that of Free-will and general Redemption.

This

This Principle so every way Quadra-  
ting with my Legal Frame of Heart,  
which was acted by no other Principle:  
But do and Live.

Here it might not be amiss or unsea-  
sonable (for the relief and encourage-  
ment of a poor-tempted Soul, who (as  
touching this very point of Election)  
may be walking in Darkness, having no  
light of Comfort in his own Spirit) to  
answer (or resolve) this needful Questi-  
on. How shall a poor, bewildred, temp-  
ted Soul come to know, that it self (in  
particular) was elected of God before-  
time?

To this Question (about which many  
of God's called ones are not a little di-  
stressed in their own Spirits) I shall an-  
swer in three Particulars.

*First,* The way to know thou art ele-  
cted before-time, is to go about it in a  
right way or manner. By this I mean,  
thou art not to attempt to pry into the  
Secret Counsels of the most High, con-  
cerning this Matter, knowing that secret  
things belong to God, and to none else,  
until he pleaseth to reveal them, *Deut.*  
*29. 29.* Therefore in order to know this  
Mystery (to thy comfort,) do as thou  
wouldst do, if thou wert to bring both  
ends

ends of a Bottom of Thread or Yarn to meet together, the way is not to begin at that end which is hid in the very centre of the Bottom, but to take the end which is outmost and next to thee; and by thus doing thou wilt soon bring both ends to meet, whereas if thou go about it in any other way, (as by cutting or ravelling the Bottom (to hasten the work), thou wilt but fret and vex thy self, and (which is worse) thou wilt marr and spoil the work. Do not then attempt (as the Devil and Carnal Reason would have thee) to climb up to Heaven, to inform thy self of this Matter; God's Work must be done in the way of his own Appointment; which is, that thou begin first with thy own Heart. See, examine and search thy own Soul, to find out whether his Holy Spirit hath ever been at work there? The Cause must be known by its proper Effects; not the Effects by the Cause. 2 Cor. 13. 5. Gal. 6. 4. 2 Pet. 1. 10.

Election (the thing thou wouldst fain be resolv'd about) is the cause (this is a Secret in God's Breast, which can be known by thee, no other way (ordinarily) but by its Effects, which are Faith in thy Heart, and Obedience to Christ's Commands in thy Life and Conversati-



on. If the Spirit of God hath called thee to embrace and close with Christ, held forth in the Gospel; and if the Fruits of that thy closing with Christ, do discover themselves in thy Life and Conversation, thou hast no Ground or Reason to question thy Election: but what the Devil and thy Carnal Reason suggest. *Acts. 13. 48. And as many as were ordained to eternal life, believed. For 10. 26. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.* In the Scriptures now quoted, Election (to eternal Life) is held forth as the Cause of Faith, and Faith (or believing in Jesus) as the undoubted Fruit or Effect of Election.

*Secondly,* Art thou frequently tempted to doubt of, and question thine Election to eternal Life?

This is an undoubted Argument, that the Devil discerns in thee the Fruits and Effects of God's electing Love to thy Person, which puts him upon tempting thee to question and doubt of God's Love to thee.

Where the Devil knows he hath thee full and quiet Possession of a Sinner, where he suggests, that the Man is a good Christian: His Faith is a good Faith, and  
God

God is his Father, and that he is elected and shall be Saved, notwithstanding he lives after the Flesh.

On the contrary, where the Devil sees and discovers the Fruits and Effects of God's Grace and Love appear, there he pesters the Soul with Infernal Suggestions and Temptations, to put the Soul on mis-believing, and questioning the Truth of God's Grace bestowed on the Sinner. Thou art but a painted Hypocrite, thou art none of God's Elect; it is in vain for thee to hope or expect to go to Heaven. Thus he dealt with the Believers Redeemer. *Mat. 4. 3, 6. If thou be the Son of God, &c.*

And if the Adversary hath done this to the green Tree, what will he not attempt to do to the dry? *Luke 23. 31.*

Thirdly, Dost thou find thine Heart (fixedly) resolved (come Life, come Death) to cast thy Soul at the foot of Divine Sovereignty, in the way of Duty, shunning all known Sin, and pressing after Holiness, resting entirely on the Grace and Merit of Christ, after Life and Salvation? Thou art to know, for thine everlasting Comfort and Encouragement, that no Reprobate ever was, or ever shall be able to do this. Time will discover,

cover, that thou art one of God's Elect;  
go on in the strength of thy God: Fear  
not.

---

## CH A P. II.

### *Of Reprobation.*

**B**Y what hath been discoursed out of  
the Holy Scriptures, concerning  
the Act of God's Election of some to Life  
and Salvation by Jesus Christ, to the  
praise of the Glory of his own Grace, it  
unavoidably (and by necessary conse-  
quence) follows, that the same Sovereign  
God hath Reprobated (or Rejected) the  
rest, (not so elected) and that from all E-  
ternity, having decreed never to recover  
them by converting Grace, but hath fix-  
edly purposed for Sin to Damn them;  
and that for the Praise of the Glory of  
his own Justice. Nothing can be more  
plain than that, if God hath elected and  
chosen a certain number out of the  
whole corrupted Mass or Lump of fallen  
Mankind, in whose Salvation he hath  
purposed to Glorify his Merer and free  
Grace by Jesus Christ, then hath he re-  
fused.

used or passed by the rest, as will most evidently appear in all the parts of it.

The Decree of Reprobation hath in it four parts, to each of which I will speak as plainly and as briefly as I can.

*First*, God hath refused or rejected some particular Persons, on whom he purposed never to have Mercy; this is most evident from the Scriptures following. *Jo. 10. 26. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. Rom. 11. 7. But the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded. Rom. 9. 18. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.* In which Scriptures it is plain and conspicuous to every one (savingsly) enlightened, that there are two distinct (or differing) Parties intended or spoken of, some, whom Christ chose to himself, known and distinguished by the Term, Sheep, and others, whom Christ denys to be so; These are those intended in *Mat. 25. 32, 33.* termed Goats, opposed to the Sheep of Christ. Some, whose Understandings were savingsly enlightened to know the glorious Mysteries of the Covenant of Grace, in order to Salvation; and others not at all enlightened, but left to abide in that spiritual Darkness and

and blindness of mind, which they brought into the World with them. Some, whom God's powerful Grace mollified and softened to saving Repentance, in order to Mercy; and others, whom God sees fit to harden, that is, to leave them to that Sin of their own, which hardens them.

Secondly, God hath from Eternity rejected or refused these.

This is plain from the Scriptures following, Jude 4. There are certain Men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this Condemnation. Rev. 17. 8. Whose Names were not Written in the Book of Life from the Foundation of the World. 1 Pet. 2. 8. And a Stone of stumbling, and a Rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the Word, being Disobedient, whereunto also they were appointed. From all which it is manifest, that God did, (as a just Judge) purpose and decree to give up the Reprobates to the obstinacy of their own Mind, and their wilful Disobedience against his Son Jesus Christ; that so they might not only ripen themselves for, but even pull down the Judgments of God upon themselves.

Thirdly, God hath Decreed to Damn these Persons for Sin.

This

This is plain from the following Scriptures, *Prov. 16. 4. The Lord hath made all things for himself, yea, even the Wicked for the day of Evil. 2. Pet. 2. 12. But these as Natural brute Beasts, made to be taken and Destroyed.*

Fourthly, Gods Reprobating some Persons from Eternity, and that in order to Damn them for Sin, is for the Praise of the Glory of his own Justice.

This is so plain and obvious, that he who runs may Read it. *Rom. 9. 22. What if God willing to shew his Wrath, and to make his power known endured with much long Suffering, the Vessels of Wrath fitted to Destruction.*

Against this Doctrine of Election, and Reprobation of particular Persons, the *Quakers, Papists, Arminians, Free-Willers* and others, who (in this point) are all one with them, object several things, out of which I will single out the chief and most material of their Objections, which to Ignorant and Injudicious Minds, seem to be of great force against the Doctrines now laid down; to which I shall give plain and clear Answers from Gods Word, to the end the Fallaciousness and Deceit of these Men might appear (open fac'd) to all Men.

Object. 1.



**Objec<sup>t</sup>. 1.** They object, that to hold and affirm, that God hath from Eternity Elected and Chosen a particular number to himself out of the corrupted Mass of fallen Mankind, on whom he decreed (unchangeably) to shew Mercy, leaving the rest with a full purpose never to recover them to Life and Salvation, reflects on God the highest Cruelty imaginable.

**Ans<sup>r</sup>.** To this (seeming) plausible Objection, I shall reply in the particulars following.

First, I have made it evident from Gods own Word, that God hath (undeniably) Elected a certain particular number to himself out of the corrupted Mass of fallen Mankind, on whom he (unchangeably) decreed to shew Mercy, leaving the rest (not so Elected) in that state of Sin and Misery, into which they (voluntariy) run themselves.

Secondly, By way of Query; I desire to know by what Scripture (Divine) the Quakers, or any who are their Abettors in this point, can justify their bringing in Lyes to plead for God; or wherein doth it appear that his Truth stands in need of being upheld by the Figments of their vertiginous Brains.

Job puts such a like Question to his three Friends, who all seemed to take part with God against himself. Job 13. 7. *Will you speak wickedly for God, and talk deceitfully for him?* Vers. 8. *Will ye accept his Person? Will ye contend for God?* Vers. 9. *Is it good that he should search you out? Or as one Man mocketh another, do ye so mock him?*

What do these (Heretical Pretenders to an infallible Spirit) less than mock God? who (in pretence of making God more Merciful and Pitiful, than he himself hath revealed in his Word he will be, or than the Wicked in Hell will find him to be) strike at, and (audaciously) dispute against the Justice and Sovereignty of God.

These Pleaders for God, they will (forsooth) have God to be so tender, compassionate and kind, as to love all his Creatures with an equal Love; and (consequently) that to fix his Love on a small and particular number, to whom his Special Grace and Favour should be extended, and to pass by the greatest number, on whom to resolve never to shew Mercy, is altogether inconsistent with the tender, kind and merciful Nature of God. Now, whether these Men do not, (in pretence of Pleading for God) cause (as much as in

in them lyes) both his Attributes, his Counsels, and his Word, to clash and contradict each other, I leave to the judicious and unprejudic'd Reader to judge.

I demand from *John Burnyears*, and the rest of the *Quakers*, (who joyned with him in challenging me to make out by the Scriptures of Truth, that Doctrine which I am now defending against them) why or wherefore God was so strict and severe, as to confine those Angels, which (of their own accord) fell from that state of Innocency and Blessedness, wherein they were Created to those Chains of Darknes, wherein they are to be kept to the judgment of the great day? and that without extending the Benefit of a Redeemer to them; was it because the Angels were not his Creatures? certainly they will not say so; for without Dispute the Angels were in their Nature far more Glorious and Excellent Creatures, than was *Adam* and his Posterity in their State of Innocency.

Was it because Gods Arm could not reach to help and deliver them? they dare not say so; neither was it because God had no Bowels of Mercy and Compassion in him towards his Creatures: This cannot be supposed to be the reason; for (alass) this, (*viz.*) the tender and merciful

ciful Nature of God to his Creatures (in general) is the Argument whereby they would overthrow the Doctrine of particular Election. What is the reason then? did the Angels fall by Sin and Apostacy? Yes, they cannot deny it, unless they deny the Scriptures to be the Scriptures of Truth; and were those Angels (all of them) sent forthwith to Hell for their Apostacy and Rebellion? this they cannot deny. Was not the least Dram of Mercy shewn to one of that numberless number which fell? they dare not affirm there was, or ever shall be; if they do, it lyes at their Door to prove it.

If then the reason why the Apostate Angels are (eternally) lost, is not because they stood not related to God as Creatures, nor because the Hand of God was not strong enough to prevent their sinking into Hell; nor yet because God wanted Bowels of Mercy and Compassion: The reason then must be, because the Glorious God did (before time) decree and purpose with himself, not to recover those Creatures whom he foreknew would causelessly Rebel and Apostatize from that state of Holiness and Happiness, in which he decreed to make them.

If then the Adversaries I now contend with, will acknowledge God to be Just and

and Righteous in leaving the Angels (which by Transgression fell) so as never to shew them Favour more; I desire to be informed by what Law the Sovereign Majesty of Heaven can be (justly) charged with Cruelty, for saving but a small Remnant of Apostate *Adam's* Offspring, seeing that *Adam* was (every way) as voluntary and free in Sinning against God, as were the Angels which fell.

Surely, had it pleased God, he might have cast both *Adam* and his Children into the same Lodging with *Beelzebub*, and his Apostate Train, there to endure (to endless Eternity) the Torments due to their Rebellion and Disobedience.

And in that God hath been pleased to extend Mercy to any of *Adam's* Posterity, it is meer Grace and Mercy (every way) undeserved, the which he was no way bound to shew to *Adam* and his Children, any more than he was obliged or bound to help or commiserate the fallen Angels.

If *John Burnyeat*, or any of his Friends, (who oppose the Doctrine of particular Election) can prove (by the Scriptures) that God hath given (or is (by any Law) bound to give) Special Saving Grace to Rebels, who have fallen by their (causeless) abusing and loosing the Grace given them in *Adam*, their Natural and Fæderal

ral Head; any other than what he bestows on his Elect, and that in the right of Election, I will readily submit and yield the Cause.

**Object. 2.** *The Scriptures of Truth are express and positive in affirming, that the Salvation discovered and held forth in the Gospel, is designed by God, (and offered by the Apostle) to all Men (in general) without any distinction or limitation of Persons; and therefore, to restrain that Salvation to a stinted number, is most injurious and wicked.*

**Ans.** These Cavilling Objectors do at a very easie rate wrest and pervert the sense of the Holy Spirit, not knowing what they say, nor whereof they so rashly affirm, where they meet with universal Terms, from them they infer universal Principles, witness the Scriptures following, 2 Cor. 5. 14. 1 Tim. 2. 6. Heb. 2. 9. Where the Apostle saith that Christ Died for all; and that he gave himself a Ransom for all Men, and that he tasted Death for every Man: They from hence infer and strongly conclude, (as they think) that beyond all Peradventure, the end and design of Gods send-



ing his Son into the World, and the Sons laying down his Life, was on full purpose that general Redemption might be procured for, and granted to all and singular the Sons and Daughters of sapsled *Adam*, and where the Apostle *Peter* shews that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to Repentance. 2 *Pet.* 3. 9. They would fain perswade themselves and all others, that without any restriction or limitation, the Sense must be, that God wills not that any Sinner should be Damned.

And so (foolishly) fond are they of the General Redemption, which (from the fore Cited Scriptures) they highly conceit themselves able to demonstrate and prove against all Gain-Sayers, that they (with great care) set down the Terms All, Every and Any in great Capital Letters; that the Reader might observe and take notice of them.

That those Universal Terms All, Every and Any, are to be restrained and limited to a particular and select number only, (which can be no other than that number which the Scriptures positively affirm, God Elected and Chose to himself out of the corrupted Mass; as hath been above observed) is beyond contradiction.

( 30 )  
The Objection consists of two Mem-  
bers (or Branches) First, the design of  
God in preparing and intending Redemp-  
tion and Salvation for all Men in General.  
Secondly, Gods commanding to Preach  
(or offer) it to all in general, without  
exception: On these two mistaken  
grounds the *Quakers* and the other *Here-  
ticks*, who in this point join with them  
against the Word and Churches of Christ,  
do ignorantly and falsely infer that the  
Benefit of the second *Adams* Obedience  
and Righteousness, is (in Gods imputing  
and applying it) as extensive, as was the  
Disobedience and Rebellion of the first,  
which (say they) was to all the Posterity  
of *Adam*. The places of Scripture from  
which they draw this their Unscriptural  
Inference, are those of *Paul*. *Rom. 5*.  
18. *Therefore as by the offence of one*  
*Judgment came upon all Men to Condemna-*  
*tion; even so by the Righteousness of one,*  
*the Free Gift came upon all Men unto Justi-*  
*fication of Life*. *Heb. 2. 9.* But we see  
*Jesus*, who was made a little lower than the  
*Angels*, for the suffering of Death, Crown-  
ed with Glory and Honour, that he by the  
Grace of God should taste Death for every  
Man.

The ground of these Mens looking them-  
selves in this Controverſie, is their using  
Scriptures

( 77 )  
Scripture without Reason, and Reason without Scripture; the which whoever doth, will be sure to run himself and his followers into a Labyrinth of dark and uncertain Interpretations of the most plain Text of Scripture, whence comes (most commonly) Chymical and Enthusiastical Notions, which are attended (as really) with a Satanical Energie, to deceive Earthly Minded People, as the true Word of God is attended with a Divine Energie and Power, to reach and guide Gods Elect to the saving knowledge of God in Christ.

Here they seem (to the ignorant and unwary Reader) to have Scripture on their side, when opposing those who assert and defend the Doctrine of particular Election against these Universalists, (*viz.*) those Scriptures above quoted, in which God seems to have intended the Redemption purchased by his Son, for every individual Son and Daughter of Adam; and that because the Term set down is Universal.

But now, these Men inhering in the bare Letter of the Scriptures, and laying aside the use of Reason, (the which they should make use of in distinguishing Terms) they themselves, and their poor deluded Profelytes loose the true Sense of

the Scriptures, never looking farther than the bare Letter, never regarding whether they take the Sense of the Spirit with them, yea or not.

And hence it is, that with such unbri-  
dled Licentiousness some Men do with  
highest confidence positively affirm, that  
the Salvation of the Gospel is purchased  
and intended for all, and singular the Po-  
sterity of the first *Adam*; and that an  
universal offer thereof is (accordingly)  
made to each Man and Woman: Where-  
as (indred) when the judicious and un-  
prejudiced Reader joins Scripture and  
sanctified reason together, accompanied  
with Self denial, and sincere and hearty  
Prayer to Gods Throne of Grace; for  
the obtaining from God the true sense of  
the Scriptures so much boasted of, he  
will plainly see how egregiously they are  
mistaken in both the one and the other;  
for neither doth God intend the Death of  
his Son for Salvation to any of *Adams*  
Children, save those whom he Elected,  
and (from Eternity) Chose in Christ;  
neither doth God make such an Universal  
tender of it to all Men, as the *Quakers*  
rashly and boldly affirm he doth.

This lyes on me to demonstrate and  
make good against these boasting Uni-  
versalists; the which, that I might do  
to

to satisfaction of the judicious and unprejudiced Reader, I shall propound my Argument dilemma-wise, thus: The Terms All, Any and Every, on which they ground their Unscriptural Assertion, they are to be taken either in an Universal sense, intending every individual of Mankind; or else they are to be taken in a limited and restrained sense, as intending some of all sorts, ranks and degrees of Men indifferently.

If by the Universal Terms above named, some of all sorts, ranks and degrees of Men indifferently, be to be understood, then the Assertion of the Adversaries is (manifestly) false, and consequently the Doctrine of particular Election is true.

If by those Universal Terms all Men and Women without exception be intended, (as the Adversaries will have it) then must I be allowed to demand of them how any of *Adams* Children come to be Damned?

For seeing that God willed that Christ should Redeem all the Children of *Adam*, who fell by his Transgression; I would fain know how any created Power can effect the hindering God of bringing about his own purpose, or frustrate the end and design of Christ, in laying down his Life; for (undoubtedly) if God should absolute-

ly will and purpose the Salvation of every individual Son and Daughter of Adam, it is not to be questioned, but that he being the *Eloshaddai*, the Mighty God, every way perfect and all sufficient, would find out ways and means to effect and bring about his own purpose, seeing that he works all things according to the Counsel of his own most Holy Will: As Paul witnesseth, *Ephes. 1. 11.*

It is in the Work of Regeneration, as it is in the Work of the first Creation, that He cloaths his Word with a creating Power; so that whenever, and wherever he sends forth that creating Voice of his Mighty Spirit, neither Devil nor Self, nor any other Enemy or Impediment, whether internal or external, shall ever be able to give any stop to his intended Work: As the Lord himself tells his Church, by the Prophet *Esa. 43. 13.* *Yea, before the day was, I am he, and there is none that can deliver out of my Hand: I will work, and who shall let in? Whom God in Justice and Righteousness will Damn and Sentence to the Flames of his deserved Wrath for Sin, who can rescue and save them? Whom God in Sovereign Mercy and Grace purposeth to save and deliver, who can hinder or prevent him? Jo. 10. 27. My Sheep (saith*



the Lord Jesus) hear my Voice; and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them Eternal Life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any Man pluck them out of my Hand. My Father which gave them me, is stronger than all; and no Man is able to pluck them out of my Fathers Hand. I and my Father are one.

Here 'tis plain, that from the invincible Power of God and Christ, the certainty of the Life, and Salvation of the Elect, is inferred and proved.

That many of *Adams* Children are already in Hell, and that many more will be Lodged there; the Scriptures affirm, and the *Quakers* cannot deny. How comes this to pass? seeing God (if we must Believe the *Quakers*) designed a general Redemption for all Mankind, and that the Son of God laid down his Life to Ransom them from the Curse and Wrath of God, due for their Sin; to say that God willed their Salvation, but that their own Obstinacy and Wickedness hindered that his Will should be accomplished on them; is (in effect) to say that God did seriously and efficaciously will and propose, that all the Children of *Adam* should be saved; but indeed the greatest part of *Adams* Posterity fell by the Pow-

er of *Satan*, and their own rebellious Will.

Now, whether to think or say, that either the power of the Serpent, or the corruption in a Sinners Nature, can, or ever did, or shall overturn or prevent the efficacious Will of God, being accomplished, be not Impious and Blasphemous; I leave to every impartial and sober Reader to judge.

Thus the first Member (or Branch) of the Objection appears to be rotten and unsound; neither is the second any better, which affirms that God makes a general offer of that Salvation to every individual Sinner in the World; the which if it be true, (as the *Quakers* affirm) they are highly obliged to shew how it comes to pass that the greatest part of the World (by far) should remain in Darkness, I mean with respect to the very external means of Salvation; the which God hath seen fit to deny to many Nations in the World; to which also the very Letter of the Holy Scripture bears witness. A few Instances hereof I lay down, that the Reader may plainly see, how vain these foolish Boasters are in their Imaginations, who would fain impose on all, that God doth love all the Children of *Adam* with an equal Love; and

and that the offer of his Grace (in general) is made to all, without any exception or limitation; wherein they prove themselves as false in their sayings, as they appear vain in their deluded Imaginations.

They say, and boldly affirm, that the tender of Salvation is made to all alike; I say, they belye the Spirit of God, (in pretence of pleading for God) by whose Instinct and immediate Inspiration, they would make the World believe, they themselves (above all Men) are guided; and not only so, but they egregiously thwart and contradict the very Letter of the Scripture, which they seem to own and acknowledge to be Holy, True, and the Rule and Standard of Tryal, of all matters in Religion, wherein they and Christians differ.

For satisfaction herein, let the Reader peruse, and with serious consideration weigh in the ballance of Gods Sanctuary what is recorded in Psal. 147, 19, 20. *He sheweth his Word unto Jacob, his Statutes and his Judgments unto Israel. He hath not dealt so with any Nation: And as for his Judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the Lord.*

Whether the place (now quoted, doth not evidently prove, that when God chose called

called and settled a Church unto his own  
peculiar Use and Service, to whom he  
gave his Word and Ordinances for a rule  
of Faith and Holy Obedience, he did not  
leave the other Nations of the Earth;  
(out of whom he chose his People, with  
a peculiar Love and Favour) in their Na-  
tive Darkness and Blindness, is a matter  
to be enquired into. That of our Savi-  
our in *Mat. 20. 16. Many are called, but  
few chosen.* Doth also give countenance  
to the point in hand: He doth not say  
that all are called, but many: In which  
Text there are three sorts of Men offered  
to consideration. First, some who are  
not called at all. Secondly, some who  
are called with a common or external  
Call, but not Elected. And thirdly,  
some who are called, not only with the  
common and external Call, but also with  
the internal efficacious Call of the Spirit;  
and that because Elected and Chosen to  
Life and Salvation. Now, that these  
three sorts of People were equally Belo-  
ved of God, and their Salvation equally  
intended; who but Children of Darkness  
and Deceit dare to affirm or believe?  
That of *Paul (also) Acts 14. 16. God  
who in times past suffered the Gentiles to  
walk in their own way,* Backs and confirms  
the present Truth: And doth not the  
Account.

Account we have by Travellers, who  
correspond with the most parts of the  
World, inform us, that the greatest part  
of the Nations have not so much as the  
Name of Jesus Christ among them; and  
even in these Kingdoms, where *Papery*,  
*Aminianism* and *Quakerism* prevail:  
Doth not sad experience teach us how  
deplorable a Condition the generality of  
the Kingdoms is in? as touching the sa-  
ving Knowledge of Jesus Christ, or the  
proper means appointed by God, for the  
saving Discovery of his justifying Righte-  
ousness to the Souls of Men: such as the  
pure and unmixed Word of Truth, Read  
and powerfully Preached to them, for  
calling them out of Darknes into the  
marvellous Light of the Knowledge of  
God in Christ: For want of an Ortho-  
dox Teaching Ministry, these Kingdoms,  
(especially *England* and *Ireland*) are near  
to a Harvest ripeness, ready for the Sic-  
kle of Gods Judgments, through the  
affected Ignorance of the Lord Jesus  
Christ, which reigns in the Minds and  
Hearts of the greatest part, even of *Eng-  
lands* and *Ireland's* Professors; with the  
Occult and Spiritual Idolatry of Mens  
Souls, whereby the Son of God and his  
pure Gospel Worship are shut out of Mens  
Hearts and Affections, that the Statutes  
of

of *Ours*, and their Carnal secular Interests might bear the sway. To which I will add, that Deluge of open Debauchery, and Atheistical Oppression and Profaness, which like a Land Flood overruns the Nations; the which, (if not very speedily prevented by those who have the Reforming Power put into their Hands by God) will pull down (from Heaven) such sore and desolating Judgments, as will make *England* with her Hypocritical formal Professors an abhorring to all Nations. More might be offered to consideration from Gods Word to the same purpose; as the sad and deplorable Condition the *Ephesians*, *Philippians*, and other Countries were in, before the Apostles were sent among them.

The Ancestors and Forefathers of whom, God suffered to Live and Die like Brutes, and worse serving Dumb Idols, those Teachers of Lyes, serving divers Lusts, Atheists, without the knowledge or hope of God in the World, *Ephes. 2. 1, 2, 3.* To them God sent no Prophet or Apostle, no Law or Gospel, which should be a means of Salvation to them, till God sent *Paul* to their Off-spring.

Now, can it (in truth) be said, that God did equally love and will, or design the



the Salvation of both the Fathers and their Posterity, seeing the means of Salvation were deny'd to the Fathers, and freely given to their Posterity?

As touching the Learned (or rather Silly and Impertinent) Question, wherein the *Quakers* desire to be resolv'd, (*viz.*) What Gospel of glad Tidings it is, which I (and others, who hold the Doctrine of Particular Election) have to Preach to those, for whom Christ Died not?

*Ans.* This Silly Question is grounded on a false Supposition, that Faith is required of all Men; the which I never taught, neither do I (now) own to be true.

For, I do not think or believe, that such as never heard of Christ, or who never had the means of knowing him, are required to believe, that Christ Died to Redeem them.

*Secondly,* They are grossly (if not wilfully) mistaken, in thinking and saying, that I press on all I Preach to, that it is their Duty to believe, that Jesus Christ Died for them all, without any Limitation or Restriction. I do not believe, that those People, to whom the glad Tidings of the Gospel is Preached, are

are any of them required absolutely, (and without Restriction) to believe, that Christ Died to Redeem them. All who ever attended on my Ministry, and who are able to give a Judgement, they will witness for me, that the scope and drift of my Preaching, is to convince and awaken Sinners out of their natural State, by opening up to them, from God's Word, the happy sinful State, wherein God Created them in *Adam*, their natural and federal Representative, how they came to fall from that Happy State, and what the sad and wretched Effects of that Fall was to *Adam*, the Head, and now is to all his Children in their unregenerated State: This I do (instrumentally) by opening up to Sinners, the Sense and Design of the Moral Law, which is to discover Sin, and to Damn the Transgressors of it before God; to let Sinners know how spotless that Obedience and Righteousness must be, which answers its own Demand, in order to its justifying them at the Bar of a Holy God. As also how weak and unable it is, to help a Lapsed Transgressor. It points out and requires Duty, but can afford no Ability or Strength to do that Duty: And all this, in order to bring Dead Sinners to a sight and sense of their need of a Redeemer.

deemer. I labour to make them sensible, that out of Christ, no Life or Salvation is ever to be expected; and that until Christ the Son of God be received by a true Faith, they themselves, with all their threadbare polluted Morality, and all those Advantages, wherein they bless and count themselves Happy, are all under the Curse of God, and Living and Dying so; they must (as certainly as God is Just, and his Law Holy) look to be eternally separated from God and Christ for ever and ever. No Civility, goodness of natural Temper, no Morality, no Zeal for that which they take to be the best Religion, no learning or shining Parts, whether natural or acquired, no Riches or Greatness in this World will ever avail to keep them back from being (by the Law's powerful Sentence) sent down to Hell.

When I find and perceive, that the Spirit of God hath (by the Law set home on the Conscience) brought the Sinner (with the Prodigal) to a sense of his undone Condition; when I hear him cry out (not in a rotary and formal customary way, which (God knows) is too much in use and fashion in this sleepy Hypocritical Age) in the bitterness of his Soul, *Men and Brethren, what shall I do to be Saved?*

xobon

*Saved?* I then open up (as God's Messenger) the Mystery of God's Covenant of Grace held forth in the Gospel, wherein is discovered the Incomprehensible All-sufficiency of the Lord Jesus Christ, to save and reconcile to God the greatest and vilest of Sinners. I presently fall on directing and sending the poor sin-sick wounded Sinner to the Son of God, with his Wounds and Plague-sores, to be healed, pressing him to believe in the Son of God, out of whom no Salvation is to be found. Hereto I add the peremptory Command of God himself, that the poor despairing Soul believe on the Son of God, *1 Jo. 2. 23. Mark 16. 16.* By these Methods and Ways of God's own appointment, God is pleased to work saving Conversion and effectual Faith in the Souls of elect Sinners.

To what hath been offered out of God's own Word, to prove the Doctrine of Particular Election before time. I here set down the Judgment of the most Orthodox Protestant Churches, concerning the same. Not that I think the Word of God stands in any need of Humane Testimony, to help it out, but rather to shew forth the sweet Harmony which is between the Holy Scriptures and the Saints of God, (in their Holy and Orthodox

thodox Confessions of their Faith) concerning the present (so much controverted and impugned) Doctrine of Election and Reprobation before time: As also to shame those (nominal) Protestants, both Non. and Conformists, who have so apparently turn'd the back upon their own Articles of Faith, whereby both the one and the other Party hath (not a little) strengthened the Foundation of the Jesuits hope of bringing *England's Neck* (once more) under the Papal Yoke: From which I heartily wish, and sincerely pray, that God will ever keep us.

I begin with the Church of *England*, Predestination (to Life) is the everlasting Purpose of God, whereby (before the Foundations of the World were laid) he hath constantly decreed (by his Counsel secret to us) to deliver from Curse and Damnation, those whom he hath chosen in Christ out of Mankind, and to bring them (by Christ) to everlasting Salvation, as Vessels made to Honour. Wherefore, they which be endued with so excellent a Benefit of God, be called according to God's Purpose, by his Spirit, working in due season: They (through Grace) obey the Calling: they be justified freely; they be made Sons of God by Adoption; they be made like the Image

of his only begotten Son Jesus Christ; they walk religiously in good Works; and at length (by God's Mercy) they attain to everlasting Felicity. See 39 Articles of the Church of England. Article 17th of *Predestination and Election*.

*Secondly*, The Confession of Faith, agreed upon by the Assembly of Divines at *Westminster*.

By the Decree of God, for the Manifestation of his Glory, some Men and Angels are predestinated to everlasting Life, and others to everlasting Death, *1 Tim. 5. 21. Mat. 25. 41. Rom. 9. 22.*

These Angels and Men thus Predestinated and fore Ordained, are particularly and unchangeably design'd, and their number is so certain and definite, that it cannot be either encreased or diminished.

Those of Mankind, that are Predestinated unto Life, God, before the Foundation of the World was laid, according to his eternal and immutable Purpose, and the secret Counsel and good Pleasure of his Will, hath chosen in Christ unto everlasting Glory, out of his meer free Grace and Love; without any foresight of Faith, or good Works, or Perseverance in either of them, or any other thing



thing in the Creature, as Conditions or Causes, moving him thereunto; and all to the praise of the Glory of his Grace.

As God hath appointed the Elect unto Glory, so hath he, by the eternal and most free Purpose of his Will, fore-ordain'd all the means thereunto, *1 Pet.* 1. 2. *Ephes.* 1. 4, 5. *Ephes.* 2. 10. *2 Thes.* 2. 13. Wherefore, they who are Elected, being fallen in *Adam*, are Redeemed by Christ, are effectually called unto Faith in Christ, by his Spirit working in due Season, are Justified, Adopted, Sanctified, and kept by his Power, through Faith unto Salvation, *1 Thes.* 5. 9, 10. *Tit.* 2. 14. *Rom.* 8. 10. *Ephes.* 1. 5. *1 Pet.* 1. 5.

Neither are any other Redeemed by Christ, effectually Called, Justified, Adopted, Sanctified, and Saved, but the Elect only. *Jo.* 17. 9. *Rom.* 8. 28. *Jo.* 10. 26.

The rest (of Mankind) God was pleased, according to the unsearchable Counsel of his own Will, whereby he extendeth or withholdeth Mercy as he pleaseth, for the Glory of his Sovereign Power (over his Creatures) to pass by, and to ordain them to Dishonour and Wrath for their Sin, to the praise of his glorious Justice,

Justice, *Mat.* 11. 25, 26. *Rom.* 2. 12. 2  
*Tim.* 2. 19. 1 *Pet.* 2. 8.

See *The Assemblys Confession of Faith*,  
 Chap. 3. of the eternal Decree of God.

To this, the Church of *Scotland* hath  
 fully agreed: With this also agrees the  
 Articles (of Faith) of the Church of *Ire-*  
*land*, in Bishop *Usher's* time. See those  
 Articles: And *Usher's* Body of Divinity.  
 Quest. What are the parts of Predestina-  
 tion? Answ. Election and Reprobati-  
 on. 1 *Thef.* 5. 9. *Rom.* 9. 13, 22, 23.

Quest. What is Election? Answ. It is  
 the everlasting Predestination or Fore-  
 appointing of certain Angels and Men  
 unto everlasting Life and Blessedness,  
 for the praise of his Grace and Goodness,  
 1 *Tim.* 5. 21. *Jo.* 15. 16. *Rom.* 9. 22, 23.  
*Ephes.* 1. 4, 5, 6, 9.

Quest. What is Reprobation? Answ. It  
 is the eternal Predestination or Fore-  
 appointment of certain Angels and Men  
 unto everlasting Dishonour and Destru-  
 ction, God (of his own freewill) deter-  
 mining to pass them by, refuse or cast  
 them off; and (for Sin) to Condemn and  
 Punish them with eternal Death. *Prov.*  
 16. 4. *Exod.* 9. 16. *Rom.* 9. 17, 22. 2  
*Tim.* 2. 20. *Mat.* 25. 41. See *Usher's*  
*Body of Divinity*, pag. 91, 92.

The Church of France (in the 12th Article of the Confession of her Faith) hath these words, (viz.) We believe that God, out of that Corruption and general Curse into which all Men were plunged, doth free those whom (in his eternal and immutable Counsel) he election of his meer Goodness and Mercy in our Lord Jesus Christ, without the Consideration of Works, leaving the rest in the same Corruption and Damnation, to shew forth in these his Justice, and in them the Riches of his Mercy, for none of them are better than others, because God hath separated them, &c.

The Synod of Dort in the 7th Canon doth lay down this plain and clear Definition of Election, thus, (viz.) Election is the unchangeable Purpose of God, by which, before the Foundation of the World, (according to the free good pleasure of his Will) of his meer Grace, he hath chosen out of all Mankind to Salvation in Christ, a certain and set number of Men, neither better nor more worthy than others; but lying in the common Misery with others, and fallen from original Righteousness, into Sin and Destruction, by their own fault, &c.

And in the 15th Canon of Reprobation they say thus, (viz.) The Holy Scripture doth manifest and commend unto us the

*eternal and free Grace; especially when it doth farther witness, That not all Men are elected, but that some are not elected, or are passed by in the eternal Election of God (viz.) Those whom God (according to his free, just, unreprouceable and immutable good Pleasure) decreed to leave in the common Misery, into which they had cast themselves, by their own fault, and not to give to them saving Faith, and the Grace of Conversion.*

*It were (almost) endless to insert all the Confessions and the Judgments of the Orthodox, (in all Ages) who have held and (with an unshaken Confidence) maintain'd to the Death, the very same Faith, concerning the Doctrine of Election and Reprobation, on whom (with the Pen-men of Holy Writ) the frothy Arminians of the Age we live in, who are more Crafty, than truly Wise, do not spare to cast the basest Reflections, as if they were no way worthy to compare with themselves, for either Learning, Parts, or Piety. But whatever others think, for my part, I am neither afraid nor asham'd to tell them, that the Advances they are daily making towards the Scorners, Scer, in contemning and undervaluing the bright shining ones gone to Glory; it is to me an invincible Argument,*

gument, not only of their being destitute of true saving Grace; but that this their plying it over the best of Men is a sure Prognostick of their own Destruction, when the overflowing Stourge threatened in *Esa. 28. 15* comes on *England*. The *Arminian* Drugs of Free-will, (in fallen Man) general Redemption, falling from Grace, with temporary Conditional Election, reviv'd and sow'd (in *England*) by the Jesuits Art; and propagated by too many Preachers of the two Parties above-mention'd, have proved the most successful Expedients, to lay *England* open to utter Ruine; that ever those Incendiaries of the World could devise. And indeed the poisonous Drugs (now mentioned) have so Epidemically overspread the Nation, that I cannot see how the Land can be cured (in an ordinary way) any other way, than by the Preachers of both Parties, (who have imbib'd those poisonous Principles, and (by Preaching) convey'd them insensibly) into the Heads and Affections of the People) Vomitting up (by sound Repentance) those cursed Principles, as some have done their Doctrine of Passive Obedience and Non-resistance; the which had they not done, the Land (before this time) would (in all probability)

have been turn'd into an *Acidamus*, or a  
 Papal Slaughtering house) Vomiting up,  
 I say, (by loud Repentance) the cursed  
 Principles above mentioned, and labour-  
 ing in Preaching up the Soul-saving  
 Doctrine held forth in the 39 Articles of  
 Q. Elizabeth, and the Assembly's Con-  
 fession of Faith, (on which they have so  
 shamefully and apostatically turn'd the  
 back) to undeceive the People, who (by  
 their means) have been so sadly corrupt-  
 ed in their Principles, and (by reason of  
 those Principles) so wretchedly engulfed  
 in the Quagmire of Debauchery and open  
 Profaneness. It will prove their own, and the Nati-  
 on's great Advantage, to endeavour  
 (seasonably and Cordially) to Retrieve  
 the ground they have lost, by their mo-  
 dish Complaisance with the corrupt and  
 meriting Humour of the two last Reigns;  
 and that by sounding (in their respective  
 Pulpits) a timely Retreat, and exhort-  
 ing the People (with them) to a cordial  
 Reception of their Abdicated Articles of  
 Religion; from which the Infernal Craft  
 of England's Enemies, and their own su-  
 pine Incautelousness have drawn them a-  
 side. It is (infinitely) better for such  
 manifest Corrupters of the true Prote-  
 stant Doctrine, to own their Errors, and  
 repent.



repent of them here, while the Gate of Mercy is open; and all true Protestants Hearts and Arms are open, ready to receive them; on their return from the Communion of the worst and most pernicious of the Churches and poor *England's* Enemies, than to own and repent of their Errors and Prevarications in Hell; of which place such Men cannot but know it is said, *Ab infernis nulla Redemptio*. There is no Redemption or Returning from Hell. This the Inhabitants of that place know (Experimentally,) to their endless and remediless Sorrow and Grief. From which place, should it please the Holy Sovereign of the World, to send the most Gigantick Disputers, (against the Doctrine of God's free Election of particular Persons before time) which are now Tongue-ty'd in that place of Torment, to *London*; to relate what they know (by sad Experience) since Death arrested them, they would be forced (I doubt not) to declare, that no Wit or Parts, (natural or acquired) no Courage or Magnanimity of Mind, no Morality or personal Qualifications acquirable (by any of *Adam's* Children) is, or can be Armour proof against the Vindictive Proceedings of an Angry and a Sin-revenging God against those *Papists, Armenians,*

*Mane, Socinians, Freewillers, &c.* now in Hell, who (when on Earth) did bend all their Wit and Learning to turn down and ridicule the Doctrine I am now Vindicating. It will be well for their Successors, (who are yet this side Hell) if this plain dealing with them prove an occasion of awakening them, and putting them upon a serious Consideration of the present State they are in, and the way they walk in, that being savingly convinced, both of the Wretchedness of the one, and the Destructiveness of the other, they may be driven (by a Holy Despair of ever being saved in an unregenerate State, and walking in ways of their own devising) to shelter themselves under the shadow of that Mediatorial spotless Righteousness of the Son of God, by a sound Faith, and an Evangelical Repentance, which the Spirit and Word of the ever Blessed God assures me, is the only way to escape Hell and eternal Ruine, which is all the harm I dare to wish them, and the greatest Enemies I have now Living.

I conclude my Treatise with an *Apologetical Reply* to, &c.

the Bishop) and with your Holiness to  
tell me your Duty and present Duty.

This Charge consists of five branches  
or parts, to each of which I will speak as  
*An Apologetical Reply to the Slan-  
derous Charge given in against me, by  
some of the London Ministers, by  
that Malecontent Party, which  
(Schismatically) separated from the  
Church in C. 1. whereof I was the  
(then) Lawful Pastor.*

**T**HE Charge was, That I was a Man  
of an Independent Judgment, a  
great Enemy to Mr. Baxter, declaring  
that Mr. Baxter is Damnd in Hell, a  
Man who (openly) declar'd, that Christ  
hath but two or three true and faithful  
Ministers, (in and about London) who  
Preach Christ in Truth, and who bid a  
publick Challenge to Mr. Williams (and  
all the Baxterians,) to dispute certain  
Positions held and asserted by Mr. Baxter,  
and such as go his way, and (to add no  
more) one who is an universal Deceiver of  
all the Duties of Holiness in a Christians  
Life and Conversation, crying out, (in

the Pulpit) Away with your Holiness, to  
Hell with your Duties and personal Quali-  
fications.

This Charge consists of five branches or parts, to each of which I will speak as distinctly as I can, and that with great Seriousness and regard to Conscience, as if I were to make the present Defence at the Bar of the Great Judge.

I begin with the first, (viz.) My being an Independent. I have this to say for my self, first, The Congregational way (of Church Government) is the Principle which (according to my present light) I apprehend to be nearest to the Platform of Gospel-Churches, planted by the Apostles, which to own and practise, I am (fully) convinc'd, is my Duty: For which, I humbly hope and charitably believe, none of my Brethren of the Presbyterian Persuasion dare to censure or blame me, until I can see, that I am herein mistaken and out of the way.

Secondly, As touching my Judgment (herein) I do affirm, (and that in truth) God knows I lye not. I honestly and fairly acquainted my (now) Reproachers, what I was in my Judgment, (as to this very Point) when they first discovered an Inclination

clination to call me to take the Pastoral Charge of their Souls: About this, they and I had several (occasional) Discourses *Pro. and Con.* for and against it; and in conclusion they (with the rest of the Covenanters with God, in a Church way) did own themselves fully convinc'd, that the Congregational way (of Church Government) was (most certainly) the way of the Gospel; and as such, they freely closed with me. If what I have now asserted be deny'd, I shall (by Authentique Testimonies) make the same good to their Faces.

I come to the second Branch of the Charge, (*viz.*) My being a great Enemy to Mr. *Baxter*, &c.

In answer whereto, I positively affirm, that I never (in my Life) had any Prejudice against Mr. *Baxter*, save only to dislike and caution my Flock against some Notions of his, wherein I conceived him to be Heterodox in the Foundation Principle of Justification. I told my Auditory, as plainly as I could speak, that in mentioning Mr. *Baxter's* Name, my design was not to meddle in Judging him, as touching his Eternal State, only what of Corruption I found in his Books, I judg'd it my Duty to take notice there-

and to caution my Hearers (who had his Books) to beware of such Notions. And what I did herein, I did it (God and my Conscience knows) in Faithfulness to Christ, and the Souls of those committed to my Pastoral Charge by the Great Shepherd of the Sheep.

But to say, that Mr. Baxter was Damn'd (in Hell,) I abhor the very hearing or thoughts of such a thing; neither dares any one living (except a canteriz'd and brazen fac'd Sinner) to charge such a Slander on me; so far was I from uttering such an uncharitable (I may say infernal) Expression, that I plainly spoke the contrary, (as my Judgement of him) declaring, that I hoped Mr. Baxter was with Christ in Glory; and that I dare to think, no otherwise. As for what of Corruption, which is mixt with his Writings, I told my Auditory, I lookt on that as a part of the Wood, Hay and Stubble intended by the Apostle in 1 Cor. 3, 12. of which Mr. Baxter will (I doubt not) suffer the Loss in the Great day, though he (himself) be saved; he holding Christ the Foundation, firm and stedfast to the end, as (in Charity) I hope he did.



( 83 )  
The third Branch of the charge is that I affirmed, that Christ hath but two or three right Gospel Ministers, who Preach Christ (truly) in and about London.

To this I answer in the Negative, viz. That I never thought or spoke such a thing, either in or out of the Pulpit in all my life.

The occasion of this Slender was this. I was (in a Sermon) bemoaning the small number of right Gospel Preachers, at which time, and on which occasion, I said, that a great many Preach'd up the Pope: That is, ~~that~~ that Man of Sin. Others (said I) Preach up the National Hierarchy, and its Interest, instead of the Kingdom of Christ. Others there be (said I) who Preach up ~~Moses~~ and obedience to his do, and live in the room of Christs Mediatorial Spoules Righteousness, for Justification and Life; so that (in comparison) it is (undeniably) true, that Christ hath but few who Preach him and his immaculate Righteousness, as the only Meritorious and procuring cause of Justification and Salvation. This is what I said (then) and truly I see but small reason to think or say otherwise: I question not, but the Orthodox (in and about London) will readily Harmonize with me herein. But that I did limit the true Ministers

ministers of Christ to any certain (definite) number; or that I mentioned any Ministers Names (by way of distinction) I utterly deny. And I have very good reason to judge it no breach of the Law of Charity, to believe that the secret design of the Reporters hereof, was to incense and provoke the Spirits of Godly Ministers, and their respective Congregations against me. And (hereby) to prepare them for a more facil and ready reception of the other black and Randalous Reproaches, which were to be brought on the Stage, on purpose to do my business; as one of their Confederates was heard to say he would do. I come to the fourth Branch of the Charge, which is, That I should bid a publick challenge to Mr. Williams, (and the rest of Mr. Baxter's followers) to Dispute certain Positions held (and asserted) by Mr. Baxter, and those who go his way.

To which I reply, That this is as true as the rest, and did (I am very sure) proceed from the same lying Spirit which Coined and Forged their other lying Stories against me; the design whereof, was not only to corroborate their Design (in its Foundation) but also to draw over Mr. Williams (and others, whom they knew to be impatient to hear any Oppo-

SIION

fiction given to any Notions of Mr. Baxter's) to them; to help and encourage them to break that Church, whereof themselves were an Essential part, and to force my flight from my Station in C. to which their own Electing Voice called me.

The occasion of this Slander was thus, I did one day (in Preaching) lay down this Position, viz. That an Elect Sinner is (in effectual Calling) freely justified from all charge of Sin, both Original and Actual, by the alone Mediatorial Righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, freely imputed by God; and that without any regard had to any Conditions performed by, or Qualifications inhering in the Person of the Sinner, (as con Causes with Christ in Justification) This (said I) is a truth so clearly laid down and asserted in the Gospel, and so back'd with the witness of Gods Spirit (in the Hearts of all assured Believers) that all the Disputers in the World, (who oppose the same) will never be able to overthrow it, be their Wit and Parts never so sharp and admired. And whether I be mistaken (herein) I freely appeal to the Judgment and Determination of all Orthodox Protestants; who (in the point of Justification) are not more or less tainted with

the *Apistle*, *Arminian* Leaven of Free Will  
and General Redemption.

But to bid a challenge to Mr. *Williams*  
(or any others) to dispute matters of  
Controversie in Religion, I do (most so-  
lemnly) profess, I never spake such a  
thing, either in or out of the Pulpit.

The fifth and last Branch of the black  
Charge brought in against me, was, That  
I am an Universal Decryer of all Religi-  
ous Duties in the Life and Conversation  
of a Christian: Crying out (in the Pul-  
pit) *away with your Holiness*, &c.

The design of my Accusers (in this)  
was to represent and expose me as a rank  
*Antinomian*, and so I should prove, were  
the Accusation true.

But to let all (who read this) see with what  
a virulent and malicious Spirit the Con-  
triver and Presenter of this black Charge,  
(against me) was Acted, I (here) sincere-  
ly and conscientiously set down the very  
Words I spake, from which, the occasion  
was taken to represent me in such black  
Colours. The thing was thus, the Sub-  
ject I was then upon, leading me to disco-  
ver the sad and deplorable Condition the  
Poor Sinner is in (while in a state of Un-  
regeneracy) I had these Expressions,  
(whose design and tendency was to awa-  
ken and convince the Sinner of his Misfo-

ry by Retain) by way of observation, viz.  
That where God sees the Law on work in  
the Conscience of an unconverted Sinner,  
it will (like the Avenger of Blood) pursue  
the Guilty Sinner, till it either drive the  
Sinner to Christ, (the only City of Refu-  
ge) or till the Sinner be lodged in  
Hell.

To bring this matter home more par-  
ticularly and closely, to an awakened  
Conscience, laboursing (with Adam) to  
cover the Sinner with the Fig-leaves of  
Self-righteousness, (both Negative and  
Positive) thereby to be justified and sa-  
ved. I address'd my self to this Sinner,  
in these words, *Thou carnal & fleshly*  
*Sinner! who art now under the Law's As-*  
*rest, and sinking under the Dragg-might of*  
*thy Sin,* hoping to relieve and lift thy-  
self whole with thy Conditional and Quali-  
fications, as if thereby thou couldst make an  
amends to the offended Justice of God, for  
all thy Violations of his Righteous Law,  
know, and consider in thou must, that the  
Just and Righteous Law of God (whose  
terrible Sentence (in thy guilty Conscience)  
thou art now striving to fly and shun in this  
way of Works) is as like a strict Creditor,  
who will not accept (if in Payments) any  
Coin, which appears shorn and deficient,  
either in Quantity or Quality. It will not  
hear

hear of a Sinner's being justified by any Works; but such as are exactly Commensurate to his own Just and Holy Demands. Now (said I) either see that thy Conditions and Qualifications (whereunto thou trustest for Life and Salvation) be spotless, and exactly commensurate to the Law's Demand; or in case they be not, throw away with thy Fig-leaf Holiness, to Hell with thy Duties and personal Qualifications. Look to the Lord Jesus Christ; (by an Eye of Faith) cast thy weary sinking Soul on him for Life and Salvation, or thou wilt Perish eternally, Jo. 3. 36. Jo. 8. 24. This is what I said (then,) Christ knows I Lye not, my Conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost.

When I have to do with believing Christians, I press them to the Duties of practical Holiness and good Works, as if they were to be justified and saved by them. But still, with this seasonable Caution, that Believers do never join their Works of Sanctification with Christ's justifying Righteousness in the Work of Justification.

Besides the black Charge brought against me, to which I have spoken by way of Apology, mine Accusers (the better to palliate their own black and horrid Crimes)



Crimes) charge me with Defectiveness  
 in my Life and Conversation; as not  
 practising what I Preach. To this I re-  
 ply in four Particulars. *First*, By way of Concession (or Grant)  
 my Life and Conversation is not accord-  
 ing to my Preaching; In a sense I own it,  
 I do (humbly) acknowledge, (with shame  
 and grief) that I find my self vastly short  
 of that Perfection (in Sanctification)  
 which (in Preaching) I press (as Duty)  
 on my self and others; and the Searcher  
 of Hearts best knows of how great a  
 Concern it is to me, to reflect on the vast  
 Disparity which I (sensibly) perceive is  
 between what I am, and what I ought to  
 be in point of Conformity to Christ, in  
 Life and Conversation, which lays me  
 under an indispensible necessity of sub-  
 scribing to that *Videa meliora proboque  
 deteriora sequor.* I know and approve  
 better things, but follow or incline to  
 things which are worse: And to that of  
*Paul, Rom. 7. 24. Tελειωται ο εγω εδωρατος  
 Ο νωστης ανθρωπος οτι εμι, &c.* *wretched man that I am, &c.*

*Secondly*, By way of Negation, if my  
 Accusers intend and mean, that I give  
 my self up to a course of dissolute and  
 loose Living, or that I allow my self in  
 the

the approved Practice of any Immorality, which is incompatible with a Regenerate State, or which is Inconsistent with a Holy Possession; I absolutely (through special Grace) deny the Charge, and do bid my Invidious Bespatterers (and all such as do (uncharitably) credit such malicious Reports of me) a fair and sober Challenge, to make good such a Charge against me, by any Authentick Witnesses, which is not known to be prejudicial against me, (if not one or more of them) who have plotted to overthrow my Reputation and Ministry.

*Thirdly*, If (short coming in living up to what I Preach and Profess, be a sufficient Warrant for Church Members, to prevaricate and run away, (like Children of Belial) throwing off the Yoke of Duty, (in the Church;) I would gladly know how it is possible for any Churches to be kept up on Earth, considering that the Instruments, by whose Ministry God sees fit to gather and Build up Churches, to fit them for Glory, are frail Men, not sinless Spirits.

For my own part, albeit I am far from pleading for any Sin, (though but the least Infirmity) whereof either I my self

or

or any other know me Guilty. I must needs say, that I never yet could find, that ever God the Father (in the *Old Testament*), nor Christ his Son (in the *New*), did call or send any to be Prophets or Apostles, who were exempt or free from personal Fallings; or who were ever able to live up (perfectly) to the Doctrine they Preached to others: Yea, it is most evident, (to any intelligent Reader) that a considerable part of the Canon of Holy Scripture is Occupant about discovering, acknowledging and bewailing the sinful Miscarriages and short comings of the Pen-men thereof, as the Learned and Godly well know.

*Fourthly, and Lastly,* Supposing that my Brethren knew and could prove me guilty of as great Falls as ever any pardoned Sinner fell into; it is not the duty of Church Members, to endeavour my Recovery, by coming to me in the Spirit of Meekness, and Brotherly Love, to call on me, and to stir me up to Repentance and Reformation & knowing that the Holiest of Saints, (even those of the highest Attainments in Grace) while in the Body, are Obnoxious to the sorest Temptations; and by reason thereof

Yours in Christ, &c. (and

(and the remains of indwelling Corruption) are liable to the worst falls thereby.

The Word of God proves, that so to do is the undoubted Duty of Church Members one towards another, *Lev. 19. 17. Mat. 18. 15. Gal. 6. 2.* But this my Schismatical Brethren never did to me, though never so earnestly Courted, and lovingly Entreated thereto, and that both in and out of the Pulpit. As can be sufficiently prov'd if need be.

Satan and his plotting Agents knew (full well) that the old Trade, *Report, and we will report it, Jer. 20. 10.* was the most likely and effectual way to accomplish their ungodly Design, which was to unchurch the Church, and (for future) to render my Ministry useless. In order whereto the Pastor must first be attacked, according to *Zach. 13. 7. Smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.*

- This Apology I thought not only Expedient, but my Duty to publish, for the true Information of those, (especially Dissenting Ministers) who have (from the Character given them of me, by those I here intend) sunk in Prejudice against my Name and Ministry.

And

And to occasion their (seriously) considering, how (every way) unbecoming the Gospel it is, for one Christian (especially such as are called to Sacred Office) to be open Ear'd, and of too credulous a Temper, in listening to, and improving (to the great Prejudice of those, whom the Law of Charity commands them to love) any Reports, which looks like a Design to blacken or stain the Reputation of a Brother, especially a poor Stranger, who (for Christ and the Gospel) hath lost his All; and who (for witnessing against the spreading Errors of the times) is surrounded and besieged with Enemies of all sorts. To frown on, and carry it strange to such, will neither please God, credit Religion, or help to make a dying Bed easy and comfortable, *Exod. 22. 21. Deut. 10. 19. Mat. 7. 12. Colos. 3. 12, 13, 14, 15.*

*Obsequium Amicos, veritas Odium parit.*

Flattery begets Friends, speaking Truth causeth Enemies. Compare *Esa. 30. 10.* with *Amos 5. 10.*

F I N I S.